

LLEWELLYN'S

COMPLETE BOOK OF
NAMES



For Pagans, Witches, Wiccans, Druids, Heathens, Mages,
Shamans & Independent Thinkers of All Sorts Who Are Curious
About Names from Every Place and Every Time

K.M. SHEARD

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Dedication

For X, D, and R, With love and gratitude.



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[This book of names was written for Pagans, but it is not exclusively for Pagans.](#) Anyone looking for a dictionary on first names which is comprehensive, detailed, and accurate-but a bit different to the run-of-the-mill in its attitude and perspective will find what they seek within these pages.

Nor is this book simply a "baby name book" though it is written to be as useful to those choosing a name for a baby as it can be, it is also for those who may be seeking a new name for themselves, particularly for spiritual or

religious purposes. It is also intended as a work of reference, both for general interest and as a source of names for other pur

poses-for the naming of the animals who share our lives, fictional characters in stories and plays, even works of art and design.

What exactly is a Pagan? In a nutshell, a Pagan is anyone who considers him- or herself to be a Pagan. There is no set dogma to be adhered to, no formal rituals which have to be performed in order to become a Pagan, although some of the specific paths do require initiation and an adherence to particular beliefs. Specific paths or "traditions" include Wicca, Witchcraft, Druidry, Heathenism (often called Asatru or Odinism), Ceremonial Magick, and Shamanism. Many Pagans, however, prefer to tread spiritual paths of their own making, rejecting any so-called "revealed" teachings, such as that found in the Bible, in favor of personal experience and connection with the Divine. The beliefs of one Pagan may differ vastly from those of another, but at the heart of Paganism is a deep reverence and love of Nature.

One desire common to many Pagans is to dig deeply into the rich store that is the human experience in all times and all places, to enrich their personal spiritual journeys, and to find ways of connecting with ancestors and all of humanity. This book does the same, tracing names from all parts of the globe and all periods of recorded history to their sources, exploring that vast treasury of meaningful names and potential names that are the world's languages.

Many of the names in this book are thus the sort people call "traditional." Others couldn't be further from traditional if they were distressed to within an inch of their lives and coated with a crackle glaze. Some have yet to be

used as given names at all, but have meaning and symbolism which may appeal to a Pagan or any independently minded soul. All have been explored deep down to their roots, which turn out to be more often than not lusciously Pagan.

This is a complete book of names insofar as it contains most of the names which have been used in the English-speaking world in the last thousand years, as well as a substantial number of established names from other lands and other times. Names from Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and

Rome, and Celtic, Germanic, Norse, Slavic, and Hindu mythology all feature prominently. There are also many names of African, Arabic, Asian, Persian, Sanskrit, Chinese, Japanese, Austronesian, and Native American origin.

Yet these names represent only a fraction of all the available ones in the world, even those which, by their meaning, might be considered suitable to include in a book of names for Pagans. The principal problem arises with pronunciation-for sadly many names are very difficult to say in English, even relatively simple-looking ones like the Chinese Xue, meaning "snow." Phonetically it would be rendered "shay-EE," but when pronounced by a native Chinese speaker, the sound of the vowels may be-how shall we say?-a little dissonant to Western ears.

By and large, therefore, only names which are relatively easy to pronounce correctly by someone whose first and only language is English have been included. Unless you speak a foreign language with relative fluency, treat names from other languages with caution, particularly languages such as Chinese, where saying a name even slightly wrong might turn something with an attractive meaning into something thoroughly unrepeatable.



Llewellyn's Complete Book of Names was written to be practical and user friendly, without compromising on content. There are three distinct sections:

- A comparatively short introduction to the history and usage of given names and an overview of contemporary attitudes towards names and naming in the West, along with some guidance on how to choose a name.
- A dictionary of the names themselves, listed alphabetically:

- > Male names are indicated with the symbol a, female with the symbol Y.
 - > If a name cited in an entry has an entry of its own, it is typed in capitals, e.g. ANNA. Further information relevant to the name can be found there.
 - > Names mentioned in an entry which lack a separate entry of their own are highlighted in bold, e.g. Anne.
 - > A date given, without further [explanation, represents the date when the name was first recorded in use in the English-speaking world \(essentially, at what point it is first noted in use in the last thousand years\).](#)²
 - > Many names include examples of people-real and fictional-who have borne the name. In particular, these feature those individuals who have influenced the name's use, or have had prominent exposure in some way or other (such as being in a major book, film, or television series), or are found in a context of particular interest to Pagans such as the names of Witches or "supernatural" beings.
- A final section which contains:

Two complete indices, one of all the female names in the book, and one with all the male names. Pronunciation guidance for all names which require it can be found here. If you are looking for a particular name and cannot find it in the main section, look it up the indices, as these include all the names which feature in an entry, but do not have an entry of their own.

- > Lists of various lengths on various themes to help select a name.
- > A glossary of terms used throughout the book. Jargon has been kept to a minimum, but there were cases where, for the sake of conciseness (and to avoid repetition), it was inescapable.
- > A short section of notes on selected cultural references which have featured frequently in the entries. This is partly for conciseness and partly to include a little further information or explanation where merited.
- > Suggestions for further reading.



Meaning of Names

On the surface, a name is such a simple concept. We lose no sleep over the fact that a rose is called a "rose," though the same is far from true when we are considering giving the name Rose to our daughters. We toss and turn through the night. Rose or Daisy? Poppy or Petunia? Or should it be just plain Esmeralda? "What's in a name?" asked Juliet. Quite a lot, actually.

First there is the actual "meaning" of a name- i.e. what it translates as, usually in an obsolete form of our own language or, more commonly still, the obsolete form of somebody else's. This is a minefield enough. What a name "means" is something that has fascinated people as long, it seems, as people have been using them; certainly in the historic period. Etymologies are a common feature in the Bible, and often occur in Greek and Roman literature. Unfortunately, this desire for a name to mean something in Antiquity often led to some fanciful derivations worthy of the most flighty modern

website-and these are not infrequently repeated so many thousand years down the line.

Something worth bearing in mind is the fact that not many names actually mean-or even meant anything in any language in the form they have taken. Entirely too many books and websites glibly state a language of origin and a one- or two-word "meaning" which is habitually, quite frankly, utterly meaningless. The meaning of most names is just not that simple to explain. Even identifying language of origin is not necessarily straightforward. Take Adrienne, for example, the French form of the Late Latin Adriana, the feminine form of Adrian, itself a medieval variant of Hadrian, the name of the Roman emperor who in ancient times was called Hadrianus. His name was taken from the port of Adria on the Adriatic Sea, which possibly derived from an Illyrian word meaning "water." So to what language should Adrienne be attributed? French, Late Latin, Classical Latin, or Illyrian? Or should it be simply American, since there are probably [more women called Adrienne in the States than anywhere else?](#)³

Then there's a name such as Vivien (usually now found in its French form, Vivienne), borne by the woman who imprisoned Merlin inside a cave or a tree. It is usually treated as variant of the Latin name Vivianus deriving from vivus-"alive." In fact, it almost certainly arose as a misreading in a medieval manuscript of a Celtic name, probably Ninian; it is probably no coincidence that Nimue is the other form Vivien's name takes in medieval manuscripts. The meaning is uncertain, but it is plausibly related to the Common Celtic `Wino- meaning "ash tree." The desire to turn the unfamiliar into the familiar runs so deep, however, that even some sensible and generally quite reliable books on names dismiss Ninian as being "possibly related to Vivian," ignoring its likely Celtic heritage entirely.

A very large number of given names currently in use are of surname origin. The origins of modern European surnames are almost as extensive as those of given names. They often derive from medieval forenames and nicknames, many of which are now long forgotten, their memory preserved only in the surnames that descend from them. Another significant group of surnames developed from occupational titles. Yet another evolved from place names, though often bearing little or no resemblance to the modern form of the place from which they derive.

Too many books and websites ignore this aspect of a given name's heritage, leaving the thoughtful parent wondering how a name such as Madison usually interpreted as "son of Maud"-ever came to be used as a name for girls; it is rare for most baby name books to discuss a name's history and

usage, which might shed a little light on the matter. Instead, most just ignore it, and either cheat by appropriating the meaning of Maud ("battlestrength"), or by cheerfully inventing a new meaning without any hint of the true origin.⁴ Thus one source claims that Madison means "son of the mighty-warrior"-which has some twisted logic to it-while another states it means "good-hearted," which does not.

Essentially, to take the "meaning" of a name on such a basic gloss is to miss more than half of a name's true meaning-or perhaps it would be better to say significance. Mary, for instance, to Christians, has a huge significance and "meaning" as the name of the "Mother of God" and "Queen of Heaven" which is far beyond its factual meaning, itself an uncertainty. To Pagans, she is the Christianized Isis (and other Mother Goddesses) whose churches were often built on the sites of former Pagan temples. To the people of Britain, Mary is also the name of two English queens and one Scottish one, not to mention the formidable wife of King George V, whose presence during the first half of the twentieth century was as great as the famous ship named after her. And for much of the last thousand years Mary has been the commonest name for girls of all, becoming a quintessentially English name, just as Marie is so very French and Maria, Spanish (and Italian, German, Russian, etc.).

How a name has been used over the centuries-or not-is also worth investigating. That most names have acquired overtones of one kind or another is constantly demonstrated in modern commentaries, though, interestingly enough, the particular nuances a name might have picked up do seem to vary from country to country, even in the English-speaking world. A recent British commercial about the change in name of an

insurance company featured a number of celebrities. They had all changed their names prior to becoming famous, and attributed their success to it. Among them were Alice Cooper, Elle Macpherson, and Bruce Willis, who asked "would Walter Willis have got to play the leading man?" Clearly, in America Bruce is seen as quite a masculine name. In Britain, however, it is seen as the archetypal-to the point of comic-name for an Australian, more about beer and chucking a steak on the barbie than about being butch and beating up bad guys. Many names have acquired similar associations-be they manly, smart, nerdy, girly, sensible, cheap, prissy, sociable, aloof, flirty, clever, goofy, or classy. Or typically Australian, British, American, African American, Afro-Caribbean, South American, French, Russian, etc.

This process works the other way too; a name tarnished by a person or character considered unglamorous, unpleasant, or ridiculous can doom a name for decades-even centuries.

It sums up the fact that for many-if not most-parents choosing a name for their child in the West today, it is what other people think and feel about a name which is often the most important factor in choosing a name. The great irony is how swiftly these perceptions change. After all, the name that one decade you wouldn't saddle your cat with is frequently found heading for the very top of the list in the next. This turn-around is more often than not the result of the emergence of a famous person or popular character in a film or television program (occasionally a book), who bears the name and revolutionizes public perception. Suddenly, the name is associated with the qualities of this bearer-and becomes desirable.

Of course, one of the commonest cultural markers of a name is religious. It is undeniably the case that in many, if not most, countries around the world today, the bestowal of a name is frequently linked to a parent's religion, be they Christian,

Jewish, Muslim, Hindu-or Pagan. This is no new phenomenon. Bestowing names which contain the name of a deity, emphasizing religious belief, is found amongst many of the earliest names recorded. Naram-Sin, "beloved of (the moon God) Sin," ruled Akkad in the twenty-second century BCE.

Such names were common across Mesopotamia, where most cities had a patron God or Goddess who was often honored in the names of its citizens. Undoubtedly the best-known examples are the Jewish names preserved in the Bible, but it was-and is-common in many other cultures. It is still found in India to this day.

The world's first multicultural society was imperial Rome, which was also the world's first great cultural assimilator. Tellingly, the Jews-whose religion was so integral to their identity-often maintained distinctly Jewish names, such as the historian Titus Flavius Josephus. The same was true in Catholic medieval Europe, where Christians liked to name their children in honor of saints, partly because the Church told them to, and partly because they believed it would provide the child with divine protection. In post-Reformation Britain, if you met a man called Praise-God or a woman called Silence, you could be fairly certain they were Puritan, while in the nineteenth century, if you encountered a girl called Dolores or a boy called Aloysius, it would be a pretty safe bet they were Catholic.

Many names today are also seen as indicators of social status. This is not a new trend either. Indeed, in Rome, it was at the very heart of the naming process. A man's name indicated whether or not he possessed citizenship-a powerful and much sought-after thing. Men from the provinces gave up twenty-five years of their lives serving as auxiliaries in the Roman army to gain that coveted status. Provincial kings and nobility, awarded citizenship for support of Roman rule, wore their citizenship with pride, as in the case of Togidubnus (formerly known as Cogidubnus), King of the Atrebates in Southern Britain, who declared his Roman citizenship for all to see in his name Tiberius Claudius Togidubnus inscribed on a temple to Roman Gods in Chichester.

In Anglo-Saxon times, there is some evidence to suggest that among the royalty, nobility, and the better-off free-men, the names borne mostly consisted of two elements (e.g. Edward, Edgar, Edmund, etc.), while single-element names-such as Bugge and Ragge-were more often found among lower social orders and slaves. It is also the case that certain name elements were employed almost as badges in some houses. Amongst the royal house of Wessex, for instance, names beginning with the elements Mel "noble," ead "rich" and pelf "elf" predominated.

From the sixteenth century, it became common for royalty and nobility (especially in Catholic Europe) to display their rank in the accumulation of given names-such as the Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI, who in 1685 was baptized Carolus Franciscus Josephus Wenceslaus Balthasar Johannes Antonius Ignatius. And the full name of Queen Mary of Teck, born a minor British royal at Kensington Palace in 1867, was Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes. To this day, the number of given

names someone has is often taken as a sign of social status-or pretensions to it.

Meanwhile in Britain, the short forms of names-Bill, Jack, Tom, War, Bob, etc.-although used in all levels of society as terms of endearment within the immediate family-were once confined to the poor and illiterate as everyday names to be used by all and sundry in formal as well as informal situations.

In the twenty-first century, names are seen as indicative of a person's class, race, nationality, or religion more than ever, and snobbery of all kinds runs high. People are all too ready to read a great deal into a name (except its actual meaning). What is even worse, they tend to judge people accordingly, though research demonstrates that when people get to know the person, rather than the name, these prejudices vanish. Nevertheless, articles are regularly churned out about "research" into names, full of parables of doom about getting a name wrong, striking fear into the heart of parents-to-be. People seem to take the naming of other people's children surprisingly personally, especially when more unusual names are selected. You only have to look at the comments page of an online newspaper article on names (usually decrying the use of said unusual names) to see how angry and unpleasant people can get, when what strangers name their children is really no one else's business. Unsurprisingly, all of this makes many parents choose names they regard as "safe" options, names that are currently in fashion, or names regarded as "traditional," which often translates as the same thing. This is a shame, as, quite frankly, it's about time all these silly attitudes were consigned to history.

So much for the "factual" meaning and associations of names. But there is a third distinct layer, one which was often important-and respected in the past and in other cultures, but one which is frequently overlooked in modern Western society. Yet it could be said to be the most important layer of all. And that is the particular significance of a name to the parents.

This can never be put in books, because the reasons can be-and should be-so personal. In the past, names were often chosen to honor someone, a relation, a close friend-or even the parents themselves. This is still moderately common in America, where girls often receive the feminine form of their father's name, and boys get it diluted with a numeral or "Junior" slapped on the end. In Britain, this is much rarer, and numerals are never used by living people-although the tradition of naming a child after someone is still fairly prevalent for second or third names. Naming a child after someone unrelated to the family, but admired in some way, is also pretty widespread. But beyond these established conventions, a whole myriad of personal reasons may be behind the choice of a name.

As an example, a friend of mine named her daughter Ember. Why? She and her partner had been trying for some time to conceive, and found out they had finally been successful while having a short break over the Winter Solstice at a friend's remote cottage in the Welsh hills. My friend took a pregnancy test in the early evening. When both lines appeared in the little windows, she went outside to give the good news to her partner, who was chopping wood for the evening fire. The sound of the axe echoed down the valley in the otherwise silent twilight. The dying winter sun had failed to shift the hard frost of the previous night, and as it set in a sky of gold behind the distant hills-a mystic purple in the evening mist-it glittered on

the frost which still clothed the freshly dug earth of the vegetable patch behind the cottage just like the embers of a fire.

Naturally, the couple spent much of the rest of the evening talking happily about their hopes for the future, which included a fairly lighthearted discussion on names. Later that evening, as they snuggled up in front of the fire, they fell silent, feeling warm and happy as they gazed into the embers. My friend was reminded of the sun on the frosty earth earlier that evening, the moment she had shared the exciting news with her partner ... and in that moment it struck her that Ember would be a perfect name for their child. Thus to my friend, Ember's name means more than simply "smoldering ash," it means the glitter of setting sun on frost; the warmth, joy, hope, and expectation she felt that night in front of the fire in that peaceful haven, when she first learnt she was going to have a baby.

Factual meaning, associative meaning, personal meaning-all of these things come into play

in the West in the twenty-first century for parents choosing a name for their child, with the emphasis placed on one or the other according to personal taste and beliefs, and a Pagan parent is no different. He or she is likely, perhaps, only to think rather more deeply about it.

History of Names

Unless explicitly stated, any discussion regarding the historical use of the names in this book is in the context of their adoption by the general populace of the English-speaking world (ESW) in the course of the last thousand years. Prior to the end of the sixteenth century, this invariably

means the largely Christian population of the British Isles; until the late eighteenth century, it encompasses North America and parts of the Caribbean. From the late eighteenth century onwards, it includes Australia, joined by New Zealand and South Africa in the nineteenth. Thus, to take the example of the many biblical names, it is acknowledged that many of these were used within the Jewish community in the Middle Ages-and indeed continuously from ancient times wherever the Jewish community happened to be at the time-but it is their use within the wider English-speaking community which is the focus of this book and what will generally be discussed.

Of course, in order to fully appreciate the origin of where the names used in the ESW came from and even, to some extent, interpret their meaning-it is necessary to look even further back in time, and far beyond the British Isles. Here, then, is a (brief) history of naming practices in the ESW, Europe, and the Near East since ancient times in essence, the "family tree" of naming practice for those of European descent.

Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt: What names our remote ancestors gave in Pre-History, the criteria and practices surrounding them, and what social implications they may have carried, are lost to us. Only with the advent of writing in Sumer, five and a half thousand years ago, do we start to encounter the personal names of our ancestors. Sumerian was written in cuneiform, a wedge-shaped script impressed in wet clay with a reed, which became the principal script used in the Near East until it finally died out in the first century CE. After that, like Egyptian hieroglyphics, it was forgotten, until it was finally deciphered in the nineteenth century.

Originally pictographic, like Chinese, each character represented a word. When it was adapted to write the unrelated language of Akkadian, each pictograph was treated as a syllable. In most cases that syllable was once a Sumerian word, and this is how scholars eventually deciphered the actual Sumerian language, which was long extinct by the time cuneiform ceased to be used.

Their names, like those of the Semitic peoples who superseded them, were usually compounds or statements, such as Nin-Us "Nin supports" or "Nin lifts up" (perhaps understood as "may Nin support him" or "may Nin lift him up") and Ur-Nin-Pirig "The Servant of Nin the Bright." Names were frequently very "devout" in nature, and this was true of the Semitic people who eventually took over their lands and absorbed their writing-the Akkadians, Babylonians, and Assyrians-as well as the Semites on the periphery who developed their own writing later, such as the Phoenicians and the Hebrews. Names composed like those of the Sumerians remained the norm across the region, such as the Assyrian king Sulmanu-asaredu (better known as Shalmaneser), whose name means "Shulman is the most distinguished." Such names were also common among the Hebrews, as were names composed of one or two elements, such as Dan "judge" and Kerenhappuch "horn of stibium."

Choosing a name for a child before birth was an alien concept to these ancient Semitic peoples. It was believed that the name, the child, and its fate were unequivocally linked. A natural consequence

of this, of course, was a belief that each name should be unique, and names were chosen to reflect the events surrounding the child's birth. Great care,

therefore, was taken during labor not to say or do something inauspicious. Thus we find names such as the Akkadian Ashur-bani-apli (Ashurbanipal) meaning "Ashur is the creator of a son."

As time went on, however, a stock of names began to build up, and new parents frequently used homophony-that is to say, they chose a name which suggested itself to them because it sounded like something or someone mentioned during labor. A modern example of this might be a parent choosing the name Rowena because there was a rowan tree outside the window of the labor room. The fact that Rowena is not etymologically related to rowan trees is not remotely relevant in homophony.

Jewish names had become thoroughly standardized by the time of the Roman Empire. Most were of Hebrew origin-the names borne by the patriarchs and their families-but by the first century CE, names from other languages had also been taken up, reflecting the colorful nature of Jewish history. The Persians gave the Jewish people names such as Esther, but the Greeks made the biggest impact on Jewish nomenclature. Palestine had been conquered by Alexander the Great in the fourth century BCE, and although it became part of the Roman Empire in the first century BCE, Greek remained the common language throughout this part of the world until its conquest by Arabs after the seventh century CE. Thus many Jewish people by this period had taken up Greek names. A famous example is the philosopher Philo of Alexandria (d. 50 CE).

Jewish boys received their names at circumcision, eight days after birth, and with the demise of the system of unique nomenclature, names were usually bestowed in honor of a family member-so much so that the

community in which the biblical Zechariah was priest were said to be astonished when he called his son John, instead of after himself.

Egyptian names were composed in a similar way to those of their neighbors in Mesopotamia. Statement names, such as Rahotep "Ra is satisfied," were common, as well as names which were made up of single or double elements, such as Ankh "life" and Neferet "beautiful woman." There is evidence to suggest that names changed during the course of a person's life or that some individuals bore more than one name. By the Middle Kingdom, pharaohs had five names, including a throne name, a "Horns name," a "Two-Ladies name" (a reference to the Goddesses Nekhbet and Wadjet, the guardians of Upper and Lower Egypt), a "Golden Horns name," and the pharaoh's personal name.

Personal names were believed to be a physical part of an individual, and as such it was imperative that he or she receive it immediately after birth, otherwise they could not properly come into being. While an individual's name was preserved on a monument or statue, it was believed they had eternal life-the worst thing that could happen would be for your name to be erased, for then you would cease to be. And as in many cultures, ancient and modern, the belief that if you knew someone's name then you had magical power over them-for good or for ill-was strong in Ancient Egypt. Gods and demons were bound to answer when called by name; and using someone's name in an incantation could bless-or curse-them.

The Greeks: Greek names were by and large made up of single or double elements, and were mostly standardized by the fifth century BCE. Names containing the name of a deity were not uncommon, such as Artemidorus

and Diomedes, but elements were varied and included words such as kleos "glory," aristos "best," hippos "horse," leon "lion," nike "victory" and laos "people." Single-element names were used either alone or with a suffix, i.e. the masculine suffixes such as -(ion or -ullos,

and feminine -6 or -ulla. Compound names (i.e. those made up with two elements) often developed hypocoristic (short or pet) forms such as Kleommas from Kleomenes, a practice still seen in modern Greek names, such as the common Kostas from Konstantinos.

Naming took place seven or ten days after the birth and was firmly the right and responsibility of the father. Greeks traditionally received one name only, a practice attested from the earliest records of the Mycenaean period. Later, however, two names became more common, often linked by a formula such as "also known as." These second names often arose as nicknames, e.g. the orator Dio Chrysostom-Dio "the golden-mouthed." Patronymics were also used from at least the sixth century BCE, and in Athens it became mandatory at the end of the fifth century BCE for a man's deme (essentially his village of origin) to be attached to his name in legal documents. The tradition was that a boy would be named after his paternal grandfather, then his maternal, and then other ancestors or relations. This is in fact still true in Greece today, despite the fact that in the fourth century, John Chrysostom urged parents to name their children after saints and martyrs rather than ancestors.

Less is known about the naming practices of women, though there is some evidence to suggest that the pattern was the same as that for boys. Women were always defined by their relationship to a man-daughter, wife,

or mother. Even today in Greece, female surnames take the genitive case meaning "of such-and-such family," harking back to ancient times when free-born women were as good as owned by their men.

The Celts: A surprising number of Celtic personal names have come down to us, both in the texts of the Greeks and Romans and also in inscriptions. Unfortunately, more often than not, we have only Latin versions of the names, not the originals. Also, what practices surrounded the giving of those names is lost to the passage of time. That a person might change their name during the course of their life is hinted at in the stories which have been preserved in the literature of Ireland and Wales. The great Ulster warrior Cu Chulainn, for instance, began his life as Setanta, and the Welsh bard Taliesin was Gwion Bach reborn. A poignant Roman-era tombstone of a small child reads "Ertola, properly called Vellibia," which shows that people, even children, might acquire other names in the course of their lives. This may possibly-as is the case elsewhere in the world-have in part been to keep the proper name safe from misuse. Whether it was common practice, however, is impossible to say. There simply isn't enough evidence.

As in Greek, Celtic names were often made up of one or more elements, and were similarly related to warfare, religion, and the natural world. Interestingly, words relating in some way to the three realms of the Druids-land, sea, and sky-are encountered, as are the names of trees, such as the yew and the alder, hinting at their importance in Celtic society. The names of animals also feature frequently; names containing the Common Celtic words for cow, badger, dog, fox, wolf, mouse, pony, bear, stag, and horse are all attested. Elements recalling war and leadership are another large

component: slaughter, powerful, strike, victory, iron, champion, drive out, army, battle, bronze, prince, praised, enemy, law, king, tribe, strong, chief, killer-and peace. Lastly there are names which further hint at the religious practices of the Celts, the names of Gods and Goddess, such as Bodua- better known in the later Irish form of her name: Badhbh- as well as sacred grove, festival, magic, and seer. The classic Welsh name element (g)wyn, frequently found in girls' names as (g)wen, was already common in Roman times as vind- and -vinda, etc. Its basic meaning is "white" but it is also used figuratively to mean "blessed" and "pure," again perhaps providing an insight into Celtic beliefs.

The Romans: Roman society was highly organized, and their nomenclature was no exception. In the days of the early Republic, before the Empire, most Romans had two names: the name of their family or gens, which they called their nomen "name," and a praenomen, which was, quite literally, a "fore name." This was true of both men and women, and originally there were a fair number of first names. By the time of the first emperor, Augustus, these had dwindled, so that there were fewer than twenty praenomina in common use. These made up 98 percent of all given names with just three- Gaius, Marcus, and Lucius- making up almost 60 percent on their own. This might be thought a bit strange if not for the fact that by the first century CE the praenomen had become more of an indication of citizenship than a name in common use. Most Roman men were known outside their families (and frequently within them too) by their nomen or their cognomen- a word often translated as "last name" or "surname." Cognomina were rare in the early days of the Republic, but began to be used by aristocratic families as a means to differentiate between

branches of the family, and by the time of the Empire, were standard and indeed, considered an important indication of the all-important citizenship.

In the early Republic, girls also bore a praenomen and nomen, but as time went on, they ceased to receive a praenomen, and were formally given only their father's nomen. Gains Julius Caesar's daughter, for example, was called simply Julia. Where there was more than one daughter in a family, they were often differentiated by ordinal numbers, e.g. Claudia Quinta-"Claudia the Fifth." Sometimes, the diminutive suffix -illa was used, e.g. Claudilla, or they were distinguished by the use of major-in this context meaning "the elder"-and minor, "the younger" placed after their name.

As time went on, women started to receive their father's cognomen too-such as Valeria Messalina-or were given both their father and mother's nomina. By the first century, girls had begun to be given names in honor of various female relations. The daughters of the Emperor Claudius, for instance, were named Antonia (after his mother) and Octavia (after his grandmother).

Roman men who had no male heir often adopted one-usually someone who was already an adult, sometimes even posthumously in their will, as was the case with Gaius Julius Caesar's adoption of his nephew, Gaius Octavius. An adopted man generally took the praenomen and nomen of his adoptive father and added his former nomen as a cognomen with the suffix -anus. Thus Gaius Octavius became Gaius Julius Octavianus-known to history as Octavian, and later as Augustus, the further cognomen he assumed (properly called an agnomen) on becoming emperor.

This system began to break down entirely after citizenship was extended to all freeborn subjects of the Empire in the third century. Praenomina, nomina, and cognomina began to be mixed up and given in any order, and individuals might have any number of them. The advent of Christianity, with its notion of baptism, did nothing to preserve the old system and by the time the Empire in the West finally fell in 476 CE, the classic Roman naming system had become all but defunct.

The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings: Anglo-Saxons and Vikings bore only one name, although, as elsewhere, they sometimes acquired a nickname through their life or an epithet of some kind-such as King Ethelred the Unready.' This was most common among the Scandinavians; names such as Erik the Red and Harald Bluetooth are well known. Like the Greeks and Celts, their names were made up of single or double elements from a stock, some of which fell out of general use in the language as

time went on, and came to be preserved in names only. Some were used only at the start of a name (e.g. rebel "noble" and pelf"elf"), others only at the end (e.g. weard "guardian"). Hypocoristic forms also developed, such as Cutha from Cuthbert.

It was very common to give children alliterative names (i.e. names which began with the same letter or letters, such as the sons of Cynegils King of Wessex, who were named Cwichelm and Cenwealh) or just as, if not more commonly, the same first element; Edmund Ironside's sons were Edward and Edmund, and all of Alfred the Great's brothers had names beginning with &iel. Sometimes, children were given one of each of the elements making up their parents' names, so, for instance, one of the sons of King

Edward (Eadweard) the Elder of Wessex and his wife Elfleda (/Elfl2d) was IElfweard, King of Kent. By Christian times, it was common for children to be named after grandparents or other family members.

7be Middle Ages: In 1066, a single battle changed the course of the English language. Although historians believe that the number of Normans who accompanied William the Conqueror from France after his victory at Hastings was comparatively small, the Norman Conquest had a profound impact on English, including the names people bestowed upon their children. By the end of the fourteenth century, when Geoffrey Chaucer was writing 7be Canterbury Tales, English would have been unrecognizable to a Saxon who had stood in the ranks of Harold Godwinson's army, yet it is recognizable and mostly comprehensible to Englishspeakers centuries later across the globe. By Chaucer's time, only a handful of names of Old English origin were still in common use, the most popular-Edward and Edmund-saved largely because they had been bestowed upon kings' sons and were borne by popular saints. Most of the common names in medieval times were Germanic-some cognate with the old Anglo-Saxon and Viking names-which were brought to Britain by Normans. These include some of the most enduring and familiar of the last millennium-Henry, Ralph, Robert, Richard, Walter, and William.

This was also the period which saw the Catholic Church's tightest grip on Europe, when Crusades were sent not just to Palestine against the Saracens, but also within Europe itself, against any who dared speak against, or deviate from, the Church in any way, such as the ill-fated Cathars. It was the period of the Inquisition and the Persecution of Witches. The Church sought to control every aspect of people's lives, including the names they

gave their children, and promoted the use of the names of the saints and angels. Unsurprisingly, between the twelfth and the sixteenth centuries, saints' names became common, especially the names of the most popular ones-Agnes, Catherine, John, Mary, and Peter.

Old Testament biblical names, on the other hand, and New Testament names which were not borne by saints, were rare except for those which appeared in the Mystery Plays, such as Abel, Daniel, Sampson, Adam, and Eve. By and large, Old Testament names in this period were only borne by the Jewish community.

Another feature of the Middle Ages was that girls were not uncommonly given boys' names. As Latin was used virtually universally for documents during the period, these naturally appear in records in the Latin feminine form-e.g. Alexandra or Philippa for Alexander and Philip-but evidence suggests that girls who bore such names were actually addressed by the male forms. Some survived as girls' names well after the medieval period. Nicholas, for example, was used as a girl's name as late as the nineteenth century, especially in Scotland. And the pet-form Wilmot from William had become entirely feminine by the sixteenth century.

Many names used in the Middle Ages developed hypocoristic forms. The diminutive suffixes -el,

-et, -in, -on, -ot, -kin, and -cock were common, and a lot of the names formed this way quickly became treated as names in their own right, such as Janet, Alison, and Marion. Common names also developed short or informal forms-Will from William, Rob from Robert, Rick from Richard, Jack from John, Hal from Henry. Many of these in turn gave rise to

rhyming alternatives-Bill, Hob, Dick, etc. It is unlikely that any of these names were used in baptism (which was as good as compulsory), but evidence once again suggests that they were widely used as everyday names in some levels of society.

It is worth noting that nicknames were not simply used for convenience or to denote affection. In Medieval Europe, there was still the lingering folk-belief prevalent in ancient times that if people knew your name they might "witch" you. Witches were said to use the names of their victims in spells, and "evil spirits" could also harm you through your name. Nicknames, therefore, were one way of shielding against this, in the same way that in some parts of the world people to this day still bear two names-their real name, which is kept secret, or at the very least never told to strangers, and an everyday name, which they use secure in the knowledge that their real name is safe, and thus they cannot be harmed.

It was also during the medieval era that surnames as we know them in the West today began to develop. At the time of the Norman Conquest, only nobles bore surnames, but these were not necessarily hereditary, and frequently nobles had more than one. Hugh, the first Earl of Chester, for example, was also called Hugh d'Avranches after his estates in France, and also known as both Hugh Lupus "the wolf" (a nickname) and Hugh of Chester. Anglo-Saxon nobles were likewise identified by a patronymic (e.g. Harold Godwinson), or by a nickname (e.g. Eadric Streona "the Grasper"), or by the name of their main estate or place of origin, (e.g. IÆthelred of Mercia). None of these were remotely surnames in the modern sense. Gradually, during the course of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries, surnames which had begun as nicknames and sobriquets, places

of origin, occupational names, and patronymics began to set and be passed down from father to son. The actual spellings, however, remained very fluid, in some cases well into the nineteenth and even twentieth centuries, especially on the Celtic fringe.

Reformation and Renaissance: In 1529, King Henry VIII, formerly such a devout Catholic that an indulgent pope had named him "Defender of the Faith," broke with Rome in order to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn, praying fervently as he did so that he would finally produce a living son and heir. It didn't work-but it did change the religious landscape of Britain forever, and played a significant part in shaping modern America.

British supporters of the Protestant Reformation, which was already underway on the Continent, were finally able to embrace the reforms. They immediately sought to sweep away all vestments of "popery." With it went most of the names of many of the non-biblical saints which had formerly been so popular, with the exception of a small handful, such as Ann and Catherine, which were by then so embedded in British society they simply couldn't be budged.

In their place, the zealous new Protestants embraced the names of the Old Testament, from fairly euphonious ones such as Joshua and Rebecca to the likes of the unwieldy and ugly ZaphnathPaaneah and Mahershalalhashbaz. Inspired by the meanings of many of the biblical names, they coined similar ones in English. Hence, the infamous Praise-God Barebones. He was not alone. Cheery and attractive names such as Flie-Fornication, Lamentation, Sin-Denie, Hate-Evil, LearnWisdom, and even Death were bestowed upon hapless infants by their fanatical parents. Not all of these

adoptions, however, are quite so hideous (and downright terrifying). We have the Puritans to thank for first introducing names such as Hope, Mercy, Clemency, and, ironically enough, even Earth.

The strange bedfellow of the Protestant Reformation was the Renaissance-the rediscovery of civilizations of Ancient Greece and Rome. Thus, while the Puritans were busy inventing or unearthing ever stranger biblical names to bestow upon their offspring, others of a more worldly and literary nature were re-embracing names from Greek and Roman history and mythology. Poets in particular were especially fond of this rich source of nomenclature. Seventeenth-century literature drips with names such as Chloe, Chloris, Althea, and Sylvia. Many were bestowed upon the children of the poetically inclined, such as Lady Penelope Rich, who is widely regarded as the inspiration for the Stella of Sir Philip Sidney's *Astrophel*, and the English diplomat and Renaissance man Sir Endymion Porter. These seventeenth-century poets and dreamers didn't stop at adopting classical names either, and frequently invented versions of their own-presumably to fit the meter of their poems better. Names ending in -bel, -ida, and -inda were all the rage for the discerning love-struck Renaissance poet to bestow upon the object of his sonnets.

Surnames as given names: Using surnames as given names has a history longer than most people realize. By the end of the Roman Empire, names which had originally been the equivalent of surnames-nomina and cognomina-were being used as given names, often because they had become the names of saints. Antony, Julian, Lawrence, Valerie, and Cecilia, to name a few, are all now regarded as traditional first names, but they all started out as "surnames" in the Roman period.

Using our own surnames as forenames is not new either, and was another result of the Reformation in the sixteenth century. At first it might be argued these weren't "genuine" given names because they were exclusively given to children who had some strong connection with the original family. Often an inheritance was involved. One of the most famous early examples is that of Lord Guilford Dudley (1536-54), whose mother's maiden name was Guilford. The original Sir Winston Churchill was born in 1620, a grandson of a certain Sir Henry Winston of Standish in Gloucestershire, England, and as the case of Winston demonstrates, such names tended to become "family names"-names used almost exclusively by one family. Such names are sometimes gems-but not always-and for those who have such a name in their family, the tradition can be a real bugbear, leading to disharmony and, in extreme cases, families falling out altogether.

The practice of using surnames was at first largely confined to the upper classes. Not until the eighteenth century in America-and the nineteenth century in Britain-did it become commonplace for children of all backgrounds to receive their mother's maiden name or the surname of someone else in the family, especially as a second or third name. Often, a child given a surname as a middle name in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries-girls as well as boys-would be known by that name. Using surnames divorced of a personal connection to the original bearer, however, was rare until the late eighteenth century, when giving a child the surname of someone the parents admired became increasingly common, particularly in America. It was only in the nineteenth century that surnames really began to be used completely devoid of any connection whatsoever to the original family, and only in the twentieth century that it became commonplace.

At first, surnames were generally used for boys, but not completely, and they have been used for girls too since the sixteenth century. Sixteenth-century examples of this phenomenon include Lady Essex Rich, daughter of the first Earl of Warwick, whose mother was a daughter of the Earl of Essex, and

Douglas Howard, the second wife of Queen Elizabeth I's favorite-Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

It is worth bearing in mind that many examples of seemingly "New Age" style names in the nineteenth century, such as River, Moon, Flower, Bright, Hallow, Mead, Sea, etc., usually encountered as middle names, were almost certainly-in the vast majority of cases-surnames being used, rather than the words themselves.

The eighteenth century: The Enlightenment, which began in the late seventeenth century, further fuelled the interest in Roman civilization which had begun in the Renaissance. The focus in the latter, however, had been on literature and myth, while in the Enlightenment it was on politics, philosophy, and art. The increasing popularity of the Grand Tour for all young gentlemen of any means, coupled with the discovery and excavation of Pompeii which began in 1748, meant that the eighteenth century was thoroughly classical in outlook and aspiration.

Unsurprisingly, Latin and Latinate forms of names became the fashion, especially for girls. The Latin feminine forms of male names, regardless of origin, were not uncommon either-names such as Georgiana, Frederika, Wilhelmina, and Henrietta. Some of these were imported from Hanover with King George I, who inherited the British throne in 1714, but the rest

were simply a reflection of Georgian taste in general. Generally, however, the eighteenth century was extremely conservative, with Mary, Elizabeth, Anne, Sarah, Jane, John, William, James, Thomas, and George making up the bulk of names in use.

It was the Hanoverian dynasty which was largely responsible for the increasing bestowal of more than one given name on children, a practice which was rare, though not unheard of, before the eighteenth century in Britain and America. Isolated examples are occasionally found across Europe even in medieval times, mostly among the aristocracy—for example Raymond-Roger Trencavel (d. 1209) but it was not until the sixteenth century that this practice began to increase. Early examples are the Infanta Isabella Clara Eugenia of Spain (1566- 1630) and James Charles Stuart, later King James 1(1566-1625).

The acquisition of two or more forenames became widespread in the Catholic world during the seventeenth century, but remained unusual in Britain and America, perhaps because of the Catholic overtones; the Catholic King James II named his son James Francis Edward in 1688, and daughter Louisa Maria Teresa in 1692. The practice, however, was also taken up by Protestant German royalty and nobility. The full name of King George I was George Louis, his wife and daughter were both called Sophia Dorothea, and his son was George Augustus. Thus the Protestant precedent was set, and British and American parents accordingly began to give their children second and third names. At first it was largely confined to the aristocracy, but by the nineteenth century, it had spread across all classes, and by the latter half of the twentieth century, it had become the norm.

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries: Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the Neo-Classical style began to give way to the Neo-Gothic, although it wasn't until the nineteenth century that the Gothic took hold with a vengeance. This change in taste in architecture and art was reflected in names too. Certain medieval names, such as Edgar and Matilda, came back into fashion during the late eighteenth century, and in the nineteenth, many names long neglected or consigned to country bumpkin status, were re-embraced by the arbiters of fashion. Among them were names such as Alice, Blanche, Agnes, Bernard, Roland, and Wilfred. This trend continued in the twentieth century, a century which saw many of the saint names for boys popular in medieval times dominating the century, such as David, Stephen, Michael, Peter, and Christopher.

That the same isn't true of girls' names demonstrates another intriguing aspect of modern naming practices-girls' names are considerably more susceptible to the slings and arrows of outrageous fashion. Medieval names like Margaret, Barbara, Joan, Janet, and Gillian all enjoyed spots in the limelight in the twentieth century, but their periods of popularity were much shorter-lived than those of the boys'. The fact that Jack was the most popular boy's name in Britain for fourteen of the last fifteen years, until finally being knocked off by Oliver in 2010, while the most popular girl's name in that time has changed several times over, illustrates this phenomenon perfectly.

In the twentieth century, one of the principal trends has been the increased influence of the media and celebrities on the naming practices of the general public. Its roots go deep, however, whatever some might say; names such as Perceval and Diggory were plucked from literature in medieval

times to bestow upon babies. In the nineteenth century, it became quite common for people to name their sons and daughters after their favorite characters in novels, poems, ballets, and operas, and to honor their favorite public figures by bestowing their names on their children too. People have been going to the movies since the turn of the last century, and the actors and actresses of the silver screen quickly became idols. Their names, and the names of the characters they have played, were judged glamorous and desirable, and bestowed accordingly. But stars come and go-with great regularity-and so do their names.

Another trend has been the take-up of increasingly unusual names. In a world which is ever more regulated, ever more impersonal, it is not surprising that many people seek to make their children unique by trying to give them a unique name, which, ironically brings us full-circle, back to those unique names so important to ancient Mesopotamians.

The modern trend takes a number of forms: the revival of old names or appropriation of names from myth and literature, adoption of new variants on old names, names from other cultures and languages (which may or may not be used as given names there), previously neglected surnames-and plain invention. In Britain and America, there are no laws regarding the naming of children largely because Britain became Protestant before the Council of Trent in 1545, at which laws regarding the bestowal of names on children in Catholic lands were first established.

All these trends reflect the fact that since the nineteenth century, the criteria for choosing a name has shifted in the ESW from the long-established one of naming children in honor of a relation, Godparent, or

sponsor to one of pure fancy. By and large, since the start of the twentieth century, parents have chosen a name because they liked the sound of it, and/or because it was fashionable and traditional-or untraditional-according to personal taste. Meaning has often played little, if any, part in the choice, as is demonstrated by the popularity of names such as Tyler "a tiler" (known as a roofer in America) for boys, and Taylor ("a tailor") for girls, both originally surnames. Perhaps because we are so used in the West to our names not meaning something tangible in our native language, when we do come across names which do still have meaning (such as Tyler and Taylor), it is as though the meaning dissolves into thin air, and we cannot recognize the connection between the name and the original word. We are simply too used to names forming a category of nouns all to themselves, and as they are now largely chosen on such subjective criteria as sound and fashion, we are ready to accept pretty much anything as a name.

The last major trend worthy of note is the New Age. Since the popularly-dubbed "Hippie Movement" of the 1960s, there has finally been a move towards placing greater emphasis on choosing names with meaning, to the extent that many people consciously now adopt nouns and adjectives to use as given names like the Puritans did-albeit attractive, soulful ones, often relating to Nature. They may also follow in the footsteps of adventurous ancestors to find meaningful and beautiful names from the past or from other parts of the world. Lastly, they may even create new names of their own, not on a whim because it "sounds nice," but to imbue a name with deep personal meaning which their child can cherish for life as the first and most special gift their parents gave them.

The fall and rise of the native names of the British Isles: Many English-speaking Pagans around the world feel drawn to the Celtic lands of Wales, Scotland, and especially Ireland. Of the three, Scotland is the most complex. Technically, it was never conquered by England; a Scottish king inherited the throne of England, leading to the union of the two lands during the reign of Queen Anne-the last Stuart monarch. It is true that the Scots objected more vociferously to the import of a German king after Anne's death, and the Jacobite uprisings of the eighteenth century arose in Scotland-but it is often forgotten that there were many English Jacobites too, who also wanted to restore the Stuarts. The Scots language-the Scottish version of "English"-is just as indigenous to Lowland Scotland as English is to England. It is no more or less of an import than Scots Gaelic, which was taken to Scotland by Irish invaders. Before the arrival of Gaelic and English, the inhabitants of Scotland spoke a form of Brythonic, just like most of the rest of the island of Britannia.

In contrast, Ireland and Wales were both conquered and forced to assimilate. In Ireland, things were made worse by successive waves of government-organized English settlement from the medieval period onwards (Wales had some of this too, but only in the Middle Ages-these settlements famously created "Little England beyond Wales" in Pembrokeshire). This was no different to the settlement of the New World by Europeans; the native populace was equally displaced and equally marginalized. After uprisings in the Middle Ages, the Welsh by and large accepted their fate and tried to make the best of things. Ireland, however, continued to see periodic spates of violence, particularly in the seventeenth and twentieth centuries. It might be thought that this would have led to an increased desire to preserve cultural identity among the Irish by at least

retaining their names, but actually, by and large, it had the opposite effect. After the seventeenth century, use of Irish names plummeted, so that at the turn of the twentieth century, barely any truly Irish names were in use. A great many Old Irish names were exchanged for English "equivalents"-Mor for Mary, Tadhg for Terence, and so on.

The situation was not helped by the attacks on the Irish language, which began in the Middle Ages, when laws were passed in an attempt to prevent the Anglo-Norman aristocracy from "going native." Racist tracts arguing that the Irish were an inferior human race did nothing for the self-esteem of many Irish folk, who often self-consciously chose English names to hide their Irish blood.

Fault also lies, once more, at the door of Christianity. With Ireland increasingly divided by religion, Catholics increasingly chose the names of "established" (largely mainland European) Catholic saints. These were mostly those from lands other than Ireland, with the exception of a handful of important Irish ones, such as Bridget and Patrick.' Meanwhile, Protestants largely chose to underline their allegiance to the British crown by choosing established English names. It was only in the

twentieth century, with the rise in Irish nationalism and the creation of the Republic of Ireland, that the names of Old Ireland began to return in force-and spread across the ESW.

In Wales, traditional Welsh names were already beginning to disappear in favor of "English" ones by the sixteenth century. By the nineteenth, just as in Ireland, there were very few real Welsh names in circulation. Racism had also played its part in Welsh national consciousness in the early modern

period. Wales, however, avoided the bloodshed of Ireland and the revival of "Welsh" culture began a little earlier; the resurrection of Welsh names was already in full swing by 1900. This may partly be because the Welsh language fared better than the Irish. By 1900, Irish was already a minority language in Ireland. In Wales, however-with one or two exceptions-it was still spoken widely as a first language across the whole Principality.

Of all three Celtic lands, "native" names survived in continual use in Scotland best. But even there, Celtic names were increasingly neglected in favor of "English" ones between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, as English/Scots spread and the Gaelic dwindled. However, before the English are labeled as the bad guys in this tale, it is worth remembering that the real English-the ordinary folk, who worked the land, slaved in the factories, and died on the battlefields-were a conquered people too.

The true villains of this story are the Norman barons and-later-the ruling British elite in general, who came from all over the Isles. Indeed, it could be argued that true "English names"-i.e. those of Anglo-Saxon origin-have suffered worst of all. Most had become obsolete by the fourteenth century through the same processes witnessed in Ireland and Wales, surviving only, if lucky, as a surname. There was a fairly half-hearted revival of some of the better-known Anglo-Saxon names in the nineteenth century, but even these have mostly vanished again. In fact, most "English" names are not actually English in origin. They are Latin, Greek, Germanic, Hebrew-and Celtic. And while in Ireland, Wales, and Scotland it is now all the rage to choose "native" names, very few English folk are flicking through the pages of Beowulf or the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles to do the same. In the top 100 names in England and Wales in 2010, only two boys' names, Alfie and

Edward, were derived from genuine Anglo-Saxon given names-and not a single girl's name. In America, Anglo-Saxon girls' names fared a little better, seeing Aubrey and Audrey make the top 100 in 2010-but the flipside was that no boys' names did.

Modern Pagans: It is a fact that most Pagans have come to Paganism from other religious backgrounds. Modern Paganism is a vibrant and swiftly growing religion-and as such its traditions and practices are still fluid. Indeed, this is one of the things that many people find so attractive about it.

A further characteristic of Paganism is its eclecticism. What the beliefs of one Pagan are might vary hugely from those of another, which makes it difficult to generalize. However, by and large, most Pagans seek deeper spirituality and deeper meaning in their lives and, naturally, when it comes to naming their children, desire to give them names which reflect this. But most Pagan traditions also lay emphasis on respecting our ancestors, both genetic and spiritual, and thus the age-old European practice of naming children after our forebears is also judged appropriate by many.

What are the names that Pagans are actually giving their children, here, at the start of the twenty-first century? Among the Pagans I know in Britain, there seem to be three distinct trends. The first is simply to choose the same names popular in the rest of society, but perhaps those which have deeper "hidden" significance not immediately obvious to the population at large. The second is to select slightly more unusual but still fairly mainstream names, likewise with special meaning. And the third is to flamboyantly embrace names which are overtly New Age or even downright Pagan. Which trend becomes the most prevalent, only time will tell.

Choosing a Name

Is a name a gift or a destiny? The first step to choosing a name is to decide what you feel is the significance of the naming process. Is it just to provide a label, a means of differentiation, just one step up from designating a number? Or does it have deeper, more personal and long-lasting meaning? If you are choosing a name for a baby, do you think that it is fundamentally your choice as parents-up to you, and you alone-to select the name which appeals most to you and most reflects your beliefs and values? Or is it about finding the name allotted to your child by destiny-or even by your child him or herself? More than one belief system holds that this is the case, and that it is you, the parents, who must discover that name.

Should a name be conventional or unconventional? Your next hurdle is to decide whether or not the name you choose should be conventional, unconventional, or somewhere in between. In an age when the pool of names available is constantly growing, largely padded out with countless newly coined names of dubious origin, it is not surprising that many advise against choosing names which are unusual or distinctive. They harp on about the disadvantages-forever having to repeat the name, spell it, explain its origin, etc. They hammer away about the dangers-being picked on at school, facing prejudice from teachers, employers, and colleagues. Terrifying stuff... enough to make anyone pick whatever name happens to be number one in the charts ... or is it?

The fact is that, apart from a handful of truly outrageous names-such as the New Zealand girl who was called Talula Does The Hula From Hawaii-most people quickly accept a person's name once they meet them, whatever it might be. Although numerous studies have been done on people's

perceptions of names, these studies have been done cold, and further research suggests that when people actually meet someone who bears a particular name, previous assumptions go out the window. The name becomes associated with the person, not the other way around.

In our multiracial, multicultural societies, we encounter "unusual" names all the time, and, despite the doom and gloom merchants who clearly would like to see all of us naming our children Jacob and Isabella, more and more people are breaking with tradition, and choosing names which are not run of the mill. Indeed, another recent name article in the British press discussed research which looked at what names were more likely to be borne by "trouble-makers" in school-unsurprisingly, some of the most popular names at present in Britain were cited, including Jack, Charlie, Jake, and Jessica (for the record, the "worst" offenders were Connor and Chelsea).

Of course this highlights a very important issue-it seems society at large generally lays the onus on how people view your name and how they treat you because of it on you yourself-which is fundamentally wrong. No one should face discrimination of any kind, for any reason, and to try to scare parents into going down the conventional and traditional road in order to avoid their child being bullied, or branded a trouble-maker before they even step through the school door, is utterly abhorrent.

As far as this author is concerned, the only consideration Pagans might wish to give to the conventional-unconventional debate is this: if it is well known that you are Pagans within your community, you may feel that you and your family are distinctive enough. Thus by choosing a name which the community considers "normal," you might fit in just that little bit easier-or

put another way, perhaps not stand out quite so much. And if your beliefs are not

widely known, and you live in Bible-Belt America, discretion may also be the better part of valor.

The best advice: choose the name you like the most, regardless of whether it happens to be flavor of the month among the muggles, or one never bestowed upon another soul in the history of the universe (which is actually quite unlikely). Of course, if you believe your purpose is to discover your child's predestined name, whether a name is conventional or unconventional ceases to be an issue. It will be what it will be. Bible Belt or not.

How should it be spelled? It was only really in the nineteenth century that spellings became fixed in stone after a century or more of gradual petrification. Prior to that, all words-including names-were found spelled in all manner of interesting ways, often reflecting local dialects. By the end of the nineteenth century, most common names had just one standard spelling with only a handful having two or more, which the establishment declared equally valid classic examples being Ann and Anne, Catherine and Katherine, and Antony and Anthony.

There is, however, no law (not in America and Britain anyway) against spelling a name however you like, especially if you feel it is important to give a name a particular numerological value, etc. The caveat I would give is this: if you use an extremely unusual spelling, you will be forever spelling the name to people, forever correcting them, and despite all that-will have to get used to people still getting the name wrong. You might have

spelled it so creatively, indeed, that people even pronounce it wrong when reading it out loud off a piece of paper. The novelty will wear off quickly.

Conversely, if you choose an unusual name which is written differently to how it is pronounced, you may feel it is worth spelling it phonetically- because that is what you're likely to get anyway. Bear in mind, however, English being the irrational language that it is, you are likely to get all sorts of different phonetic renditions, so you are still likely to be spelling it out all the time. Choose wisely.

Should it be chosen astrologically? It should be noted that there are no "official" astrological naming practices or lists in the West. However, certain names, by their meanings and associations, might complement quite well a particular star sign under which your child is born, which may be considered harmonious-even felicitous. Because many Pagans-and non-Pagans-like to choose a name which sits well with a birth sign, you will find tables in the appendix of this book with suggestions for suitable names for each sign.

However, these should only be regarded as an informal guide, as generalized astrological predictions and traits can never be totally accurate. If you seek accuracy, and are not a practiced astrologer yourself, seek expert advice, particularly if your interest is Eastern rather than Western astrology.

In China, it is common for astrologers to carefully calculate an individually tailored birth chart for a newborn child. As it is believed that for a horoscope to be auspicious it must balance the elements (in China these are understood to be Earth, Fire, Water, Metal, and Wood), the astrologer may recommend a name to equalize a horoscope if it is somehow

out of kilter. However, this is very specialist stuff, hence the importance of consulting an expert if you are drawn to the Chinese astrological system.

The beauty of second names-is that you can be as creative as you like. So many people waste the opportunities presented by second and third names. Often they seem to include them as little more than an afterthought or filler, frequently choosing even more conservative second names than first ones. Louise, Elizabeth, Mary, Jane, and Ann for girls and James, John, William, Joseph, and 'Thomas for boys still dominate the second-name charts in Britain. In America, Marie rules supreme as the Queen of the Middle Name. If you love a really unusual name, but are worried that it is just too dif

ferent or too burdensome for use as a first name, why not bestow it as a second or a third name? It means that distinctive name with its fabulous meaning or association is still used, but the bearer isn't going to have to discuss it every day with every Tom, Dick, and Harry.' his is a particularly sensible route if you have a common surname but choose not to compensate with an unusual first name.

Seek inspiration-everywhere. This book (in the author's humble opinion!) is a good place to start, but be open to suggestions whenever and wherever you go. You may find yourself somewhere very special to you with a name which is perfect, on the banks of the River Cele in France, perhaps, or the shore of Lake Sibaya in South Africa, or Perley Pond in Maine. Place names as given names are a growing trend, especially for girls, and I have included the names of many rivers and lakes, etc., but there are many hundreds of others, not to mention the names of woods, mountains, hills,

and villages-any one of which might be the right name for you, especially those with a personal connection in some way.

Similarly, in the books you read, inspiration may come from anywhere. As well as characters encountered in fiction, you may come across the name of a plant, or a bird, or a precious stone which isn't in this book and think, "Oh yes, that would make a great name!" Or you may encounter a word in another language which is beautiful and has a great meaning, and strikes you as the perfect choice.

If you feel drawn to a particular culture or nationality, especially if you have connections with that culture, spend some time exploring it and its names. There are names in this book from all over the world, but it would be impossible to include them all. And, of course, take a look at other name books, though be wary about taking meanings at face value; ensure that you research any name in this book very thoroughly yourself!

Be respectful, however, of naming traditions. Remember that to Native Americans and Hawaiians, the names they use mean something in the languages they speak every day. If you don't speak those languages, the name becomes no different to any other name, and so much of what that name actually is will be lost. Also, be extremely careful that a name does mean what the book or website you are using says it does, otherwise it will have even less meaning and the whole point of such a name will be gone entirely.

It is also important to note that among some Native American peoples there is considerable debate over whether their languages should become written or remain oral. One argument against written is that by remaining

oral, the language remains uniquely their own, preventing others from having access to and potentially exploiting it. Whether they would include people adopting words of their language as names for their children as a form of exploitation or not is difficult to say, but it is worth bearing in mind. If you wish to embody the spirit of Native tradition in the name you give your child, why not give them a name which means something in your own first language? More English words make good names than most people imagine.

Lastly on the subject of Native American culture as a source of names is the practice of adopting the names of tribes as given names such as Cheyenne and Dakota. Tribal names have a special place in Native American culture and many see their adoption as forenames as disrespectful, which is often the opposite of what people who choose such names are trying to be.

Journey inward. Among the Yoruba there is a saying: "Consider the state of your life before you name your child." It is sound advice. Reflect on what is important to you, as an individual, a couple, and/or a family. What aspect of your life, outlook, and personality do you feel is most important to enshrine in the name you choose? For that is what all parents do when they name their children, consciously

or otherwise. What will the name you choose say about you, both overtly and obliquely?

Most parents-to-be draw up a list, which is no bad thing. When you have your list, if you are choosing a name for a child, imagine holding your new baby and address her by each of the names you are considering. Imagine

yourself at a toddler group, telling other mothers her name. See her as a child, running around, bouncing on a trampoline, swinging-call to her. Watch her introducing herself to other children and adults. See her as a teenager, a young woman, a mother herself, using her name; others using it. Which names feel right to you? Which feel wrong? If you are choosing for another purpose, for yourself, for instance, imagine yourself in various situations, and do the same.

Try meditating on the names on your list too. What images, feelings, smells, and sounds come to you? Meditation may also suggest names you haven't thought of or which you previously rejected. Placing heather under your pillow may induce inspiring dreams; use your tarot, runes, Ogham, staves, or whatever other methods of divination you prefer to guide you, or to give insight. You may feel it is appropriate to use numerology (though don't forget that it is generally advised to calculate the numerological value of the whole name). Also worth bearing in mind is an old British custom; in the past in Britain, it was believed particularly lucky for a name to add up to seven, nine, or eleven letters, but unlucky for it to total thirteen.

Avoid blunders. Consider how the name sounds with your surname to avoid name gaffes such as Tamara Knight, Dee Light, Miles Long and Ernest Laughter, all of which are genuine names. And check the initials for similarly embarrassing potential boo-boos. Consider what short forms or nicknames the name may acquire also. Some might be great-others less so. Best to find out beforehand.

Naming in honor. Despite the fact that it has long ceased to be the norm to name children after close relations in the Western World, many people

still do like to honor or commemorate loved ones in the names of their children-be they relations, friends or others who have been influential in their lives in some way: a mentor, a guru, a hero or heroine.

In Britain, commemorative names, as they might be called, are usually given as second names, or play only an additional factor in the choice of a name, rather than the principal. As an example, when someone says they named their daughter Emily "because that was my grandmother's name," by and large it isn't strictly true. The child probably wouldn't have received Great-Granny's name if it had been Etheldreda. Emily is currently fashionable-Etheldreda is not. The fact that Grandma was Emily might have tipped the balance in its favor over, say, Olivia or Sophia, but that's about as far as it goes. Not that there's anything wrong with this; indeed it is worth scouring the family tree to see whether there is a name gathering dust there which might be perfect. Many Pagan traditions place emphasis on our connection with ancestors, and what better way to show that than by naming a child to honor one of them?

It is also worth thinking about all the people who have been influential in your life, both directly (relations, friends, lecturers, mentors, etc.) and indirectly (people from history whom you admire, writers, philosophers, politicians, reformers, etc.) Is there anyone in particular you feel drawn to honor? You can use any or all of their given names, their surname, or the whole caboodle if you feel so inclined. Or you could use one of their names or surname as a starting point and choose a variation instead. You may, for instance, wish to honor Aleister Crowley. His birth name was Edward Alexander, which he changed for the rhythmic quality and numerological value that the name Aleister Crowley provided. Thus you could go with

Aleister or any of the other forms-Alasdair, Alastair, Allister, or even the unrelated but similar sounding Alastor. You could, of

course, go for plain Alexander or Edward. Or you could use Crowley, shorten it to Crow or Crowe, adopt the Welsh Bran, the Latin Corvus, or use its later derivatives Corbin or Corbinian ... and so on and so forth. You might even consider using such a name as the basis of an invention of your own ...

And if you don't actually like the name, or any of alternative options you have come up with by following the advice above, you could think about what qualities you admired most in the person you are commemorating and seek a name which reflects those instead.

Invent your own name. Don't be afraid to consider devising a name of your own, but do be careful. If there is a particular meaning you want the name to have but none of the names you have found possess that meaning appeal, try looking it up in other languages. Be careful, however, with languages which are very different from the ones that you know, as the pronunciation can be tricky. If you find a word in another language which almost but not quite fits the bill, you could always tweak it a little-Latinize it perhaps; for a girl, change the last letter to -a (or simply add it), or add -ana. For a boy, you could add -o. If it's a Greek word and begins with a K, you could change it to a C; if it contains a "u" change it to a "y." Both methods have historic precedence.

Be careful with other suffixes. Though there is a long tradition of adding them to names, often to make a male name feminine, they have been used so much over the course of the last century that they are in danger of

becoming a cliché. You are probably still fairly safe with -ella, -et, -ilia, -ina, -itta, and -o used cautiously. Avoid -son, unless you are called Gary and you have decided to call your baby boy Garyson, etc. Even then perhaps think fairly long and hard about it, as it makes a strong statement. But be very, very careful with other voguish endings such as -dan, -den, -don, -dyn, -een, -ene, -elle, -esha, -etta, -ette, -ica, -ika, -inda, -ine, -isa, -itka, -itsa, -lyn(n), -len(e), -leigh, -Tee(n), -la(h), -l(e)y, -lie, -ney, -(i)on, -ton, and -ya(h).

Rarer than suffixes are prefixes; there are really only a handful currently in use: the French Le- and La- which essentially mean "the" and the French De- meaning "of" are the most common. Generally these are attached to existing names, but an interesting option would be to combine with something more unusual but still with genuine rather than invented meaning, such as the names of various flora or fauna, or words that have a significant meaning in another language (be radical, give French a shot!).

Combining names, either those of you and your partner or other individuals important to you, is another option to try when choosing a name for a baby. They can work well (though can also be awful!). As with giving a child any name derived from the names of parents, bear in mind that it places emphasis on you and on your relationship with-some might say possession of-your child. Is that what you want to do? Or would you prefer to give your child a name which is uniquely theirs, as yours is probably uniquely yours?

Combining a name can include taking a syllable from each name or devising an anagram of part or the whole of the names combined.

Anagrams have a long history, particularly in Ceremonial Magick, and there are plenty of Internet sites which generate anagrams automatically. Depending on what you come up with, you could go for a partial or full anagram. You can devise new names this way or uncover existing names which may be perfect. Partial anagrams of Aleister Crowley, for instance, include Alice Sleet, Celesta Loire, Celestial Ore, Claire Sloe, Oracle Wise, Oriel Lace, Relic Rye, Electra Owl, and Secret Lore.

A further option for coining a name is to invert an existing name or a word. This too has a fairly long history. Both Senga-generally believed to be Agnes spelled backwards-and the infamous Enola- "alone"-date to the nineteenth century. More

recently Nevaeh-"heaven"-has become popular and Semaj (James) is on the increase.

Whichever method you settle on, it's worth checking carefully whether the name you have crafted has any unfortunate meanings or associations both at home and abroad before you actually use it. Meretrix-a perfectly pleasantly sounding combination of Meredith and Beatrix-means "prostitute" in Latin. Miara, an anagram of Maria, means "stained" in Greek. Of course, you can't check every language on Earth. But the Internet makes it very easy to do a general search and check a few key languages to avoid any glaring horrors.

How does the name sound? Ask a selection of random people on the street why they chose the particular name they did for their child, and you're likely to get a wide variety of answers, ranging from "it was the only one we could both agree on," to "it's short," "it's `normal,'" "it's a bit different,"

"it was my Granddad's name," etc., but probably the commonest reason given will be "we liked it the most." When pressed to define precisely what this means, they might come out with more of the above but sooner or later they will probably say they liked the way the name sounds.

But how a name "sounds" is an exceedingly subjective thing, and very language specific. Every language has its own "rhythms." Think how different French sounds from Polish, Italian from Chinese. Thus whether a name "sounds" nice or not very much depends on what language you are used to speaking and hearing. Thus names which adhere to the rhythms of your own language are more likely to "sound nice" than those which don't.

But there is more to this conditioning than just the linguistic programming. Because names fluctuate in fashion-and have fluctuated more since the twentieth century than ever before, names frequently acquire generational associations. When I was growing up, names such as Lily, Ruby, Pearl, Doris, and Edna were all very firmly in the "old biddy" [category of names. Doris and Edna still are, but the others have now been rehabilitated to a greater or lesser degree.](#) Whether a name is rehabilitated or not clearly makes a huge difference as to whether or not it "sounds" nice.

Let the baby decide. The Kaffirs of Sri Lanka place a newborn baby on its mother's breast immediately after birth. Names are then recited until the baby suckles-and the name which was being spoken at that moment is the name the baby receives. Of course, among the Kaffirs, the names are recited off the top of the head, usually by the midwife or another woman present at the birth, but there is nothing stopping you or your partner doing something similar using a list drawn up in advance. Nor does the moment the baby

suckles immediately after the birth have to be the deciding factor. You could allow yourself to recover a little from giving birth, and try it later, using either suckling as the cue or opening eyes, yawning, grasping your finger- whatever seems right to you. And when you get to the end of the list, just start again. Of course, if after several goes you are still getting no reaction, then you've got problems! Make sure you have this book on hand!

Choose a name which reflects your experiences of the birth. In many cultures, the name a baby receives is closely tied to its birth. The practice of some Native American tribes of naming the child after the first thing the mother sees following the birth is famous, but should perhaps be employed with caution. As most babies in the developed world are born in hospital, the first thing a new mother is likely to see

are forceps, plastic gloves, scissors, surgical masks, and so on and so forth, which are definitely not going to make great names. But in many traditions, the circumstances surrounding the birth are also considered, which includes the immediate hours after. If you are struggling to find a name, it's worth reflecting on the birth of your baby and considering whether anything of note took place or was said. Think about everything you felt while you were in labor and just after your baby was born. If you are up to it, go to the window and look out. You may see or hear any number of things which give a flash of inspiration: the weather, the scenery, the people, the birdsong, a song playing on a radio nearby ...

If you have your baby at home you are even more likely to find inspiration in this time. Trust to the wisdom of all our mothers down the

ages and open yourself to the subtle influences around you; the oblique messages from all five of your senses.

When all else fails... You can always write the names you have short-listed on slips of paper, pop them in a bag, and ask someone to draw one out. Or attach them to feathers, fallen leaves, or rose petals, and throw them in the air, selecting whichever hits the ground first or last (though make sure you and whoever else has a say in naming the baby have decided which). You could place the names under tea lights and choose the name under the light which burns the longest. If you live near a bridge over a stream, you could even adapt the children's game of Pooh Sticks (as first played by Winnie the Pooh in A. A. Milne's children's books). Allocate a stick for each name under consideration (though, if there's a lot of them, perhaps paint the sticks different colors and devise some sort of key), and drop them off the upstream side of the bridge-whichever emerges first is the "winner." These are just a handful of ideas for helping you to pick a name at random from a selection; the only barrier is your own imagination.

Names for siblings. A growing concern amongst many parents is whether or not the names of all their children "go together."this was rarely an issue in the past, when the children of one family might have all sorts of names, common or unusual, fashionable or dated, and from any number of origins, all muddled up together. If you believe your role is to discover your child's name, whatever it might be, then worrying about whether his or her name will match with a sibling's has to go out the window. If you do feel, however, that it is appropriate for names to have some sort of unity, there are several ways you can achieve it when choosing the name of subsequent children, without sounding corny-or worse.

Consider the origin of the name of your eldest child and choose the names of other children from the same or similar sources. For instance, if you picked the Norman-French Aveline for your first-born daughter, think about choosing other Norman-French names such as Emmeline, Oriel, Faramond, or Guy. You could also seek to establish a "theme" through the meaning, either for the first name or the second. You may have chosen Luna for your eldest daughter, meaning "moon" in Latin. There is a whole host of names connected with the moon in many languages, ranging from the classical Diana and Artemis, Jana, Cynthia, Phoebe, and Selene to the Indian Kanti, Purnima, Sashi, and Chandra (the latter two used for boys and girls), the Sumerian Inanna or Nanna, the Persian Mahasti, the Arabic Hala or Badr, and the Irish Elathan, etc.

Other common practices are to choose names which all begin with the same letter or contain one or more similar syllables; all ending in -ine, for instance. However, both of these techniques can end up sounding tacky if you are not careful, especially if you have several children. Best avoided most of all are names that rhyme. Just think of Huey, Dewey, and Louie Duck...

Breathing Space. When it comes to the naming of infants, most countries around the world allow

a certain amount of time to pass between the birth of a child and its registration. In Britain you have 42 days, so there is plenty of time to see whether or not the name you think is right for your child really is the one, or whether another name feels better after all. Even after the 42 days, forenames can be changed on a birth certificate for up to a year, if "new

names were given in baptism or by regular use within 12 months of the birth being registered," but it is still possible even after that by deed poll.

In America, births are registered by the hospital or the attendant at birth and the laws regarding changing a name after registration vary from state to state, but most allow a change of name to the birth certificate between six to twelve months after the birth. In Canada, the period also varies from province to province; it is within thirty in British Columbia, for example, but only ten days in Alberta. Parents have up to thirty days to register a birth in South Africa, while in Australia and New Zealand, parents are responsible for registering a birth within 60 days. But if you do plan to delay registering while you decide on your name, make sure to check how long you've got with your local Registry Office or Office of Vital Statistics so that you don't inadvertently fall foul of the law.

Note on Popularity and Style

Unlike many books about names, you will find little reference to a name's so-called "popularity" and "style" in this book. To talk about a name's "fortunes," how a name has "risen" and "fallen," been "in fashion" or "in favor"-or out of it, to speak of it as "enjoying success," or "flourishing"-reduces names to yet another consumer item, placing value on what is currently in vogue and condemning what is not. It is as well to remember that names are not involved in a competition. The name which is most popular at any one time has not "won" anything.

A trend even worse-currently very much in evidence-is the labeling of a name as "hot.....traditional," "cute," "old-fashioned""exotic "exotic," ""macho" or "way-out," etc. There are even books available which

promote themselves by stating overtly that this is their "style." But the fact is, most people are innately aware of what the general attitude towards a particular name is at any one time-not that it makes it right. It emphasizes the West's ever more materialistic attitude towards names just another accessory, just another piece of disposable fashion ...

Except there's the rub. Names are not, by and large, at all disposable. You can guarantee that if your principal motivation for choosing a name is that it is "in style," "cool," or (shudder) "classy" (implying some names by definition are "vulgar") when your child is born-you will almost certainly have picked a name that in thirty years will have been thrown in the irredeemable sin-bin of "dated." Indeed, as likely as not, the names which will be at their trendiest when your children are having babies of their own will be the ones currently dismissed as "old-fashioned" or "way-out." Take a look at where the current top ten names were in the "charts" thirty years ago for a vivid illustration of this. Isabella, for instance, the most popular girl's name in America in 2010, wasn't even in the top thousand in 1980, Sophia languished in 366th place, and 2010's "third placer" Emma was 416th.

Almost every name in this book has worth, of some kind or another. The only ones I would hang a caveat on are some of the more recently coined names which have entered general circulation, for the pure reason that although in early use they may have had significant meaning to the people who invented them, this is lost and these names are to all intents and purposes simply born of fashion. But each name should stand alone, be judged upon its own merits, not what other people think about it. For one

lesson is clear to anyone casting even a brief eye over those name rankings-perceptions about names, whether

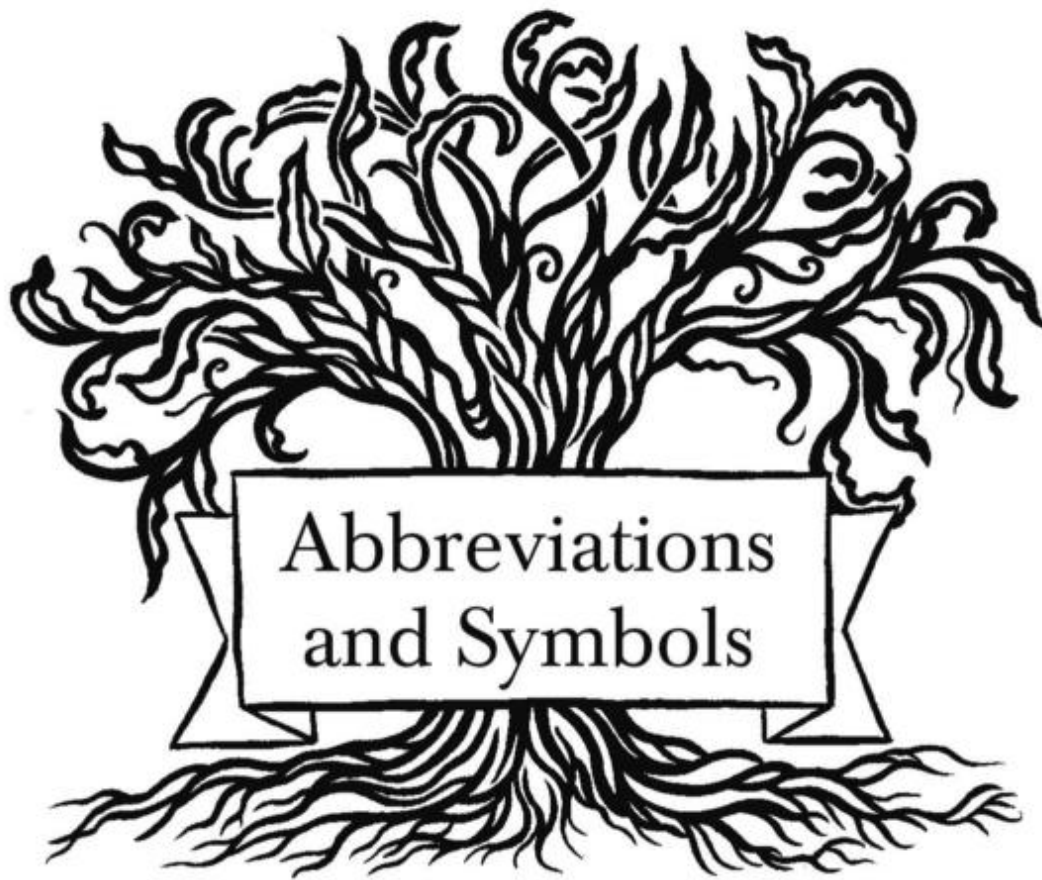
a name is in vogue or out, are as changeable as the English weather. And that's saying a lot.

If knowing how popular a name is-or is not at the moment is important, it is extremely easy these days to find out. Most countries have some kind of database of varying detail which you can check on-line for free. The SSA in America has a really excellent one, where you can see what the top one thousand names used in America have been for every year since 1880 and gain easy access to even more detailed data: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/babynames/>.

The United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics publishes the top one hundred names and every year also provides access to more detailed records for recent years, as does its Scottish and Northern Irish equivalents, and some states in Canada and Australia provide very useful data.

As for assessing a name's "style," I wouldn't dream of insulting the intelligence of readers by declaring such a name to be "hip" and another to be a "plain Jane." Unless you have recently landed here from Mars, you have lived your whole life in a community and you will know innately how most names are perceived-and, more importantly, how a name is perceived by you. Because, although some books like to put this into stone, it is no more fixed than a name's popularity, as already discussed, and it is a worrying and unhelpful trend to pretend otherwise.

Thus, although in this book you will learn when a name was first used in the ESW, and whether it was revived or not after growing obsolete or as damned near as to make no difference, you won't find talk of how a name has "achieved," "gained," "waxed," or "waned." Like children, each name is precious, each is unique, and each deserves to be considered on its own merits alone. Don't ever allow its popularity even what others think about it (especially the nonPagan variety)-to be a factor. It's what you think and feel about a name that counts.



General

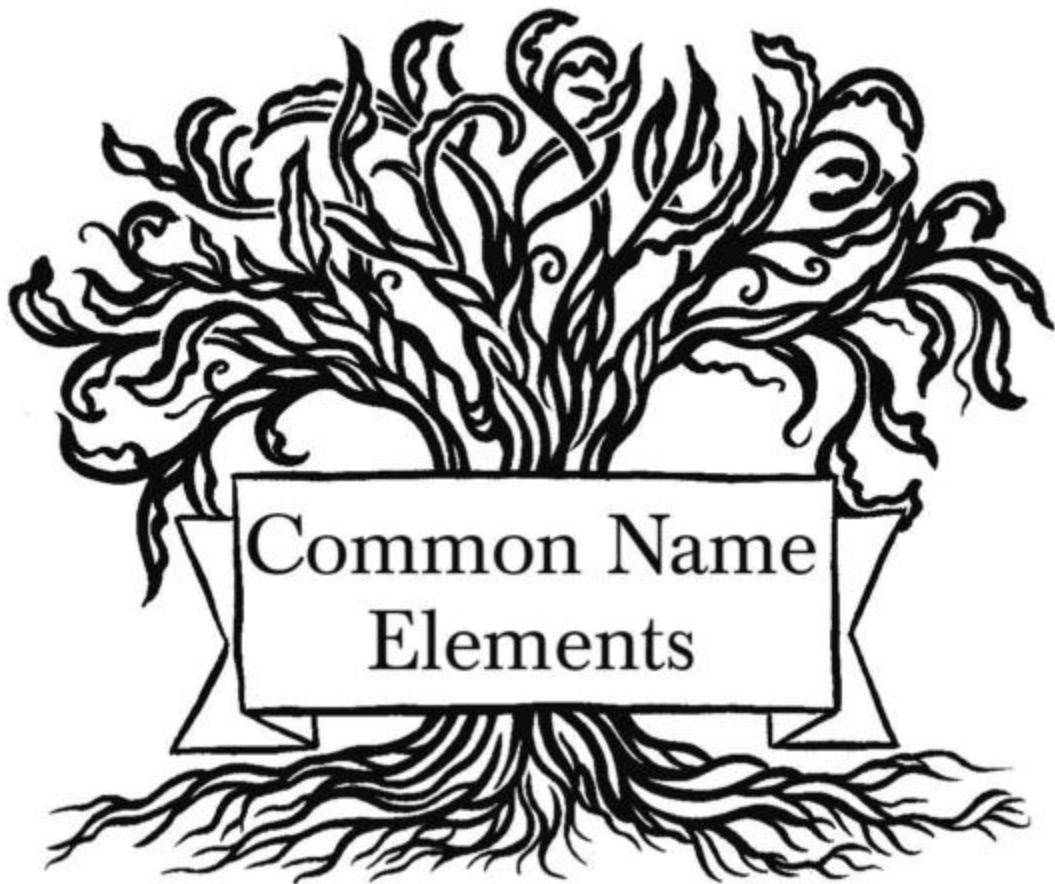
- * Denotes a word or name which is reconstructed and not yet attested.
- < Denotes “derives from.”
- + Denotes “combined with.”
- b. Born.
- BCE Before Common Era—a non-religion specific alternative to the Christian BC (“Before Christ”).
- c. Latin *circa* “about”—used to mean “approximately” and “around” a certain date when the exact date is unknown.
- C Century.
- CE Common Era—a non-religion-specific alternative to the Christian AD (*Anno Domini*—“in the Year of the Lord”).

d.	Died.
Dim	Diminutive (<i>see</i> Glossary).
ESW	English-speaking world—i.e., all those countries where English is the—or an—official language, principally the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the Republic of Ireland.
Fem	Feminine.
fl.	<i>floruit</i> —literally means “(s)he flourished.” Used to indicate when someone was known to be alive, if the dates of their birth and death are unknown.
Hist	Historic—i.e., variations in form or spelling used alongside the “standard” form, but which have since fallen out of use. Prior to the nineteenth century, spelling was haphazard, and people were generally less fastidious about how their names were written—often because they were illiterate anyway.
Masc	Masculine.
Mod	Modern. A variation in form or spelling of recent origin or relatively recent origin (depending on the age of the original name).
Var	Variations—for the sake of simplicity, variant <i>forms</i> and variant <i>spellings</i> are listed together. Variant forms may be elaborations or simplifications of the original name; variant spellings are simply the same name spelled in different ways.

Languages:

Alb:	Albanian
Ar:	Arabic
Arm:	Armenian
Bul:	Bulgarian
Cat:	Catalan
CC:	Common Celtic—a.k.a. Proto-Celtic or Old Celtic
Cro :	Croatian
Cz:	Czech
Dan:	Danish
Dut:	Dutch
Est:	Estonian
Fin:	Finnish
Fr:	French
Ger:	German
Gr:	Ancient Greek
Haw:	Hawaiian
Heb:	Hebrew
Hun:	Hungarian
Ice:	Icelandic
Ir:	Irish
Ir Ga:	Irish Gaelic
It:	Italian
Jp:	Japanese
L:	Latin
Lat:	Latvian
Lith:	Lithuanian
Mac:	Macedonian
Mand:	Mandarin
ME:	Middle English

MF:	Middle French
Mod Gr:	Modern Greek
Mod Heb:	Modern Hebrew
MW:	Middle Welsh
Nor:	Norwegian
OE:	Old English
OF:	Old French
OG:	Old German
OI:	Old Irish
ON:	Old Norse
OW:	Old Welsh
PIE:	Proto-Indo-European
Pol:	Polish
Port:	Portuguese
Rom:	Romanian
Ru:	Russian
San:	Sanskrit
Sc:	Scottish
Sc Ga:	Scots Gaelic
Scand:	Scandinavian
Serb:	Serbian
Slk:	Slovak
Slv:	Slovene
Sp:	Spanish
Sw:	Swedish
Turk:	Turkish
Ukr:	Ukrainian
W:	Welsh
Yid:	Yiddish



The following are name elements which occur in a considerable amount of names:

beorbt/berbt OE: beorbt and Old Middle German berbt "bright" < Old High German berabt, both from the Germanic *bertbto-z and cognate ultimately with San: bbraj "to shine," L: fragro "to blaze" and CC: *berxto- "bright" and "beautiful."

"deyw-o- PIE: "(a) God," "sky God."The (probable) source of the names of countless Gods and Goddess, including Zeus, Jupiter, Diana, Deva, etc., from which derives the names of other Gods and Goddesses, such as

ZEUS and DIONE, etc, as well as the Latin deus "(a) God" and the English "day."

ham OE: "homestead," "village," "manor," "estate." Very similar is OE: bamm "enclosure," "rivermeadow." Both lie behind many place names ending in -ham or -am.

fionn Irish Gaelic meaning "white" and "fair," and cognate with the Welsh gwyn. CC: *'windo-

"white." The Old Irish was find, preserved in some names.

gwyn/gwen W: white. Since at least the early medieval period with the additional meaning of "pure" and "blessed." The initial "g" is almost always lost when gwyn is the second element in a word. Wyn, which is found in countless Welsh names. Its meaning is "white," "blessed," and "pure." It has evolved from CC: *windowhich meant "white" and may also have carried the same extra meanings of purity and sacredness as the Modern Welsh. This element occurs in names of the Roman period, both in compounds and on its own.

-ides, Gr: originally "son of," but by the first century BCE, simply a standard name suffix.

leab OE: "wood," "woodland clearing," "glade," "pasture," and "meadow." Which was originally intended is sometimes hinted at by the element it is teamed with. In some cases, the clearing may have been ritual-it is particularly tempting to interpret it this way where the first element relates to trees or might be a theonym.

ric OE: "rule," "dominion," "royal power," "sovereignty" Cognate with ON: rikr and OG: rihhi/ ricja. As a common suffix in names, it carried the meaning of "ruler." Comparable to the use of flaith in Irish.

stan OE: "stone"-ON: steinn is also encountered. It may have deeper meaning in both place and personal names; a stone worth commemorating must be distinctive in some way, perhaps a standing stone, in place names, or even a henge. In personal names, its use may be symbolic of durability or a reference to a ritual item, perhaps a runestone-the same can probably be said of the use of OE: cytell, ON: ketill "cauldron." It is very tempting to insert "sacred."

tun OE: "enclosure," "farmstead," "village," "manor," "estate."

ville Fr: "town." Originally, it corresponded much closer to the sense of OE: tun, meaning "farmstead" or "settlement." It derives ultimately from L: villa "country house," "estate," and "farm."

wine OE: "friend." Used in male names. A very similar element is OE: Wynn, meaning "joy," "rapture," and "delight," which was used in girls' names.

wulf OE: "wolf." Cognate with ON: ulfr and OG: wulf.



Aarde c3' Dutch: aarde "earth." Aarde probably arose as a variant of Aard, itself a Dutch form of ARNOLD. Fem: Aardina.

Aaron g The name of Moses's brother, first High Priest of the Hebrews. He is famous for his staff (usually called his rod), which was endowed with miraculous-some might say magical-powers. Aaron's rod is a name given to several potent herbs, including the great mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) and goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*). For some reason, Aaron's beard is also considered worthy of commemoration in the plant world: Aaron's beard is a popular name for the great St. John's wort (*Hypericum calycinum*) and the ivy-leaved toadflax (*Linaria cymbalaria*), among others. The actual meaning of Aaron is obscure. It may be from Hebrew aharon, meaning

"bright," "high mountain," or "from the mountain," but it is quite possibly Egyptian. There was also the Canaanite God Horon, whose name is recorded in Egyptian as Hrn, which is suspiciously similar. Aaron also happens to be the name of more than one Celtic saint: St. Aaron of Caerleon (who is usually linked with a St. Julius) and St. Aaron of Aleph. The latter is an obscure sixth-century Breton saint, said to have been born in Wales. Since Aaron wasn't actually used as a given name until the Middle Ages, it is most likely that Aaron has been used in both cases to render a name of Celtic origin-probably the same name. A clue lies in the Breton form of Aaron of Aleph-Aihran-which is almost certainly cognate with the Welsh AERON. Intriguingly, the feast day of St. Aaron of Aleph is June 21. This hints quite strongly at St. Aaron being a Christianization of a Pagan deity. Aaron's use dates mostly from the Reformation. Since the 1970s, it is more likely to be pronounced "A-ran" rather than the traditional "AIR-an." Var: Aron, ARRAN, Aran. Fem: Aarona (19th Q. Bearers: English writer Aaron Hill (1685-1750); American politician Aaron Burr (1756-1836); American composer Aaron Copland (1900-90).

Abaeus c~ Epithet of the Greek and Roman God Apollo, Abacus derives from the town of Abae in Phocis, where there was a temple to Apollo famous for its oracles. The meaning of Abae is unknown and probably pre-Greek.

Aban e ? The name of the eighth month of the Persian calendar, corresponding to the sign of Scorpio, Aban is used as a unisex name in Iran. The name derives from the Avestan word for "waters," and in Zoroastrianism is considered a deity of water; in today's Islamic Iran, Aban is regarded as an angel.

Abaris c~ Abaris was a mythical healer and priest of Apollo from the fabled land of Hyperborea, which is sometimes identified with Britain. He was famous for his arrow, symbolizing Apollo, on which he was said to fly, and which made him invisible. Gr: abares "without weight."

Abathur cc Among the Gnostic Mandaeans, Abathur is believed to be one of the emanations of the supreme Great Spirit or entity behind the universe. Abathur is essentially a God of judgment. The etymology of the name isn't entirely clear; if Semitic, it may be ab `Utra "the father of a/the "Utra." `Utra is a word used to denote any being belonging to the celestial/heavenly world as opposed to the corporeal world-commonly called "the Lightworld." Var: Abatur.

Abban c~ The name of numerous seventh-century Irish saints, Abban is also said to be the legendary founder of the town of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, which claims to be the oldest continuously occupied town in Britain. It is clear from early forms of the town's name, however, that its namesake was someone called IEbba or IEbbe (see Ebba). Jr Ga: ab "abbot" < Late L: abbas < Syriac: abba "father" + dim. suffix -an. Jr Ga: Aban.

Abdiel cc Hebrew: "servant of (a) God"-cognate with the Arabic Abdullah, Abdiel is the name of a minor character in the Bible, and features as the name of a seraph in John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1667). 16th C.

Abel cc The name of Adam and Eve's second son, later murdered by his older brother Cain. The etymology is obscure. Some derive it from the Heb: bevel "breath" or "vapor." Others take it from ablu "son." "There is more than one saint of the name, including the mid-eighth-century Abel, Bishop of Rheims, who was said to have been Scottish or Irish by birth. Whether Abel was his birth name or the name he took upon baptism is unknown. If the former, Abel probably stands for some Celtic name, possibly one related to ALPIN. The same is also likely to be true of the very obscure early Irish Saint Abel McAedh, whose dates aren't even known; he might well be one and the same with the eighth-century St. Abel. The name was used in the Middle Ages, when it gave rise to surnames such as Abel, Able, Ableson, and Nabbs-from the pet-form, Nab. Bearers: Abel, King of Denmark (1218-52); Abel Janzsoon Tasman (1603-1659), the Dutch Explorer who gave his

name to Tasmania. Abel "Nab" Drugger is a character in Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist* (1610).

Abena ? Ghanaian name denoting "born on a Tuesday" in Twi.

Abigail Y Biblical name. Heb: "her father rejoiced." The name of King David's wife. It became a generic term for a serving girl from a character in Beaumont and Fletcher's play *The Scornful Lady* (1616). The fact that the biblical Abigail described herself as King David's "handmaid" was also probably a contributory factor. The name was further tarnished by its association with the unpopular Abigail, Lady Masham (1680-1734), a favorite of Queen Anne, who had considerable influence over the queen during her reign. 16th C. Dim: Abbey, Abbie (trad); Abbi, Abi, GAIL (mod). Bearers: Abigail Adams (1744-1818), wife of American President John Adams; Abigail Adams Smith (1765-1813), President Adam's daughter; Abigail Williams (1680-c. 1697), immortalized in *The Crucible* (1953), a principal accuser in the Salem Witch trials; Abigail Faulkner (1652- 1730), one of the accused.

Abimbola Y Nigerian name. Yoruba: bi "born" + b- "to meet with" + ola "wealth." Var: Bimbola. Dim: Bimbo-with its unfortunate connotations in much of the ESW, many native bearers outside Nigeria understandably avoid using it except within the Yoruba community.

Abla 2 Arabic name-abl "plump," and "chubby." It was the name of a sixth-century beauty, who featured in the poems of the pre-Islamic Arabian poet and hero Antarah ibn-Shaddad.

Abner e Biblical name. Heb: "the father of (or is a) light." 16th C. Bearers: Abner Brown, a nefarious wizard in John Masefield's *The Midnight Folk* (1927) and *The Box of Delights* (1935).

Abraham c? The name of one of the best-known characters in the Bible, Abraham is regarded as the founding father of Judaism and, through their

shared heritage, of Christianity and Islam too-hence the term "Abrahamic Religions." The biblical etymology for the name is "father of multitudes," from the Hebrew av hamon, a name Abraham was given after he was told he would father Isaac; previously, he was known as Abram-"high father." In Islamic legend, Abraham was born in a cave and nourished by sucking two of the fingers of his mother, Adna. One gave milk, the other honey. At fifteen months he was already extremely wise and the size of a fifteen-year-old-a tale reminiscent of the Welsh Taliesin. Abraham was used by non-Jews in the Middle Ages, and taken up again after the Reformation. Dim: Abe, Bram. Ar: Ibrahim, Mod Heb: Avraham, Yid: Avrom. Bearers: Abraham Darby (c. 1678-1717), an English Quaker industrialist; the American President Abraham Lincoln (1809-65); Abraham "Gram" Stoker (1847-1912), the Irish-born author of Dracula (1897).

Abraxas c~ The name of a Gnostic solar deity, later regarded as a demon in Christian demonologies. The original spelling was Abrasax. In Gnostic cosmology, the seven letters which make up the name represent the seven classic "planets" known in Antiquity, i.e. the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. In ancient times, the name was engraved upon stones used as amulets and charms, and numerous examples have been unearthed by archaeologists. Late 20th C. Features as the name of a demon in the American television drama Charmed (1998-2006). In the Harry Potter books, Draco Malfoy's grandfather is called Abraxas. Var: Abracax.

Absalom e Biblical name. Heb: "the father is peace." It was the name of one of the sons of King David-famous for his good looks and luscious hair-who rebelled against his father. 13th C. Bearers: Absalom the Clerk in Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales. Absalom, Absalom! (1936) is a Southern Gothic novel by William Faulkner.

Abundantia y Latin: abundantia "abundance" and "plenty." Abundantia is the Roman Goddess of plenty, and is probably the origin of HABONDE. One of a number of Goddesses associated with the Cornucopia (horn of

plenty), she appeared quite late in the Roman period-her reverence dates to the reign of Augustus. It is probable that she is one and the same as St. Abundantia, about whom many implausible tales abound, smacking loudly of a Goddess turned into a saint. A newly discovered asteroid was named after her in 1875. Fr: Abondance.

Acacia 2 Botanical name for thorn-trees and wattles, the acacia is the national flower of Australia. Gr: akis "sharp point"-many acacias are thorny. Ruled by the Sun and Air, it is used as a symbol in Freemasonry to represent the purity and immortality of the soul, and at funerals to signify resurrection and eternal life. In the Indian subcontinent, it is used to make incense; smoke from the bark of the acacia is believed to keep away demons and ghosts.'The acacia was the Ancient Egyptian tree of life; some believe it was the "burning bush" encountered by Moses in the Bible, and the Ark of the Covenant was made of acacia. Late 19th C.

Acanthis Y In Greek mythology, Acanthis was a daughter of Hippodamia and Autonos. When her brother Anthus was eaten by a horse, Zeus transformed the whole grieving family into birds. Acanthis became the thistle finch. Acanthis is also the name of a Witch unflatteringly portrayed in a poem by the Roman poet Propertius. Gr: akantha "thorn."

Acelin e Popular in the thirteenth century, Acelin derives ultimately from Azzo, an Old German name of uncertain meaning. It is possibly connected with the Germanic *ansuz "(a) God," from which ON: ass "(a) God" evolved.'The name was also taken to Italy, where Azzo was borne in medieval times by no fewer than ten members of the famous house of Este. Var: Ascelyn. Fem: Acelina, Ascelina.

Acer Y Botanical name for the maple. L: acer "sharp"referring to the characteristic points of the leaves. 20th C.

Acestes c' The name of a king of Sicily who welcomed Aeneas and hosted the funeral games held to honor Aeneas's late father Anchises. He

demonstrated such skill in archery that his arrow burst into flames. Gr: akester "a healer."

Achates e The name of the friend of Aeneas, so faithful and loyal that his name became a byword in Antiquity for a faithful friend. Gr: akhates "agate."

Achillea y The botanical name for yarrow. L: Achillea < Gr: Akhilleios "of ACHILLES." 20th C.

Achilles G~ The name of the greatest of all Greek mortal heroes (according to the Greeks). Achilles was the son of the Titaness 'Thetis. A prophecy said that the child 'Thetis bore would be greater than his father and so the Gods decided to marry her to the worthiest mortal.'Thetis, in an attempt to make her son immortal, dipped him in the river Styx, but could not immerse him completely, as she had to keep hold of a bit of him-she chose a heel. During the Siege of Troy, Achilles was killed by the Trojan prince Paris, a dab hand with a bow, who shot a poisoned arrow at this one weak spot-hence the expression an "Achilles heel."The name's meaning is not known for certain, but it has been suggested that it derives from Gr: akhos "grief" + laos "people"; it may be, however, that its true roots lie in a non-Greek language and are lost to time. Achilles is the name of an obscure saint (almost certainly a blatant sanctification of the hero), whose feast day is May 12. A second saint of this name is St. Achilles of Larissa, said to have been one of the 318 people present at the First Council of Nicea in 325 CE. 16th C. Fr, It: Achille. Bearers: Achilles de Flandres, a major character in Orson Scott Card's Ender's Game (1985) and sequels.

Acis ' Beloved of the sea nymph Galatea, Acis was turned into the River Acis on Sicily after he was killed by a jealous rival, the cyclops Polyphemus, a story preserved from Antiquity in Ovid's Metamorphoses (8 BCE). Gr: akis "sharp point."

Aconite c?' 2 Also known as monkshood, wolfsbane, devil's helmet, and blue rocket, the aconite is an extremely beautiful but highly poisonous herb. It is often grown in gardens for its spikes of bright blue flowers, and has long been used in herbalism and magic. Ruled by Saturn and Water, it is used principally in magic now for protection, particularly against werewolves and vampires. Gr: akoniton "aconite" < akonitos "without dust."

Acorn ' Y The nut of the oak tree, the acorn is rich in symbolism. It represents potential and strength, and is a symbol of fertility and eternal life in Celtic and Nordic mythology. Ancient Druids were reputed to consume acorns for the prophetic qualities they believed they possessed.'The oak tree is sacred to 'Thor, who sheltered under an oak in a thunderstorm; as a result the belief still persists in some parts of Northern Europe that acorns will protect a house against being struck by lightning. In old houses, carvings of oak leaves and acorns are often found near windows. It has been used as a girl's name by the Romani.

Acraea Y An epithet bestowed on more than one Greek Goddess including Athene and Hera. It is also the name of a genus of butterfly. Gr: akraios "of the heights."

Acrasia Y The name of a Witch in Edmund Spenser's Faerie Queene (1596). She dwells in the Bower of Bliss and embodies intemperance-a cardinal sin in Elizabethan England! She possesses the power of transforming her lovers into monstrous animal shapes, like Circe in The Odyssey. Gr: akrasia "lacking (self-)control."

Actaea Y In Greek mythology, Actaea is the name of a sea-nymph and one of the fifty daughters of Danaus (the Danaids), who were compelled to marry the fifty sons of Aegyptus. All but one murdered their grooms on their wedding night. It is also the name of a genus of crab and the botanical name for the bugbane or baneberry as well as black cohosh, which has long been used by Native Americans to treat gynecological conditions. Gr: akte

"seashore." Akre itself-and the Latinized form Acte-were used as names in the ancient world, and again from the early twentieth century.

Ada Y Ada was introduced by the Normans, as either a Germanic cognate of Old English EDE, or a short form of ADELA. St. Ada was a seventh-century French abbess and a sister of Charlemagne. In Igbo, ada also happens to mean "daughter," specifically a first-born daughter. Bearers: Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace (1815-52), daughter of Lord Byron, who is often regarded as the world's first computer programmer.

Adah Y Biblical name. Usually derived from Heb: ada "to adorn" and translated as "adorned," but it can also mean "assembly," "congregation," or "swarm," deriving from ya'ad "to assemble."The consonants used to write Adah are also identical to those for idda "menstruation." 16th C.

Adair e Y This name has two sources. In Scotland, it began life as a transferred use of the surname which derives from Edgar. As a surname in Ireland, it occurs almost entirely in Ulster, where the majority of bearers are of Scottish descent. Some instances, however, may derive from the Irish surname O Daire, meaning "son of Daire." Daire is an ancient Irish name; Daire mac Fiachna was the owner of the Brown Bull of Cooley. His refusal to loan his bull to Queen Medb led to the war between Connacht and Ulster. Another Daire was a Druid. CC: *dar(y)o- "to bull"-ultimately from a root meaning "to make fertile"-or O1: dair "oal" and "oak grove." Either way, it is quite possible that Daire was originally a God of fertility and/or the oak. 18th C.

Adam c? Adam is the first human character in the Bible. In later usage, his name was often used generically to mean "mankind."The name Adamu is one of the earliest names recorded in the Assyrian King List, a document which dates to the beginning of the first millennium BCE, five hundred years before the Book of Genesis reached its final form. Assyrian and

Hebrew are closely related Semitic languages, and there is no reason to believe that the name isn't connected with Heb: *adamah* "earth," *adom* "red," and *dam* "blood," all of which share a common root. In the religious writings of the Kabbalah, the phrase *Adam Kadmon* is used to represent "Father Time" or "Primal Man." 13th C. Fin: *Aatami*, Cz, *Dut*, Fr, *Get*, Pol, Ru: *Adam*, It: *Adamo*, Sp: *Adan*, Port: *Adao*, W: *Adda*, Jr Ga: *Adhamh*, Sc Ga: *Adhamh*, Haw: *Akamu*. Bearers: *Adam Ries* (1492-1559), the German mathematician; *Adam Smith* (1723-1790), the Scottish economist. *Adam Bede* (1859) was George Elliot's first novel. *Adam Bell* was a legendary medieval outlaw, akin to Robin Hood, who lived in Inglewood Forest near Carlisle.

Adamastor c? The name of the "Spirit of the Cape"-i.e. the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa-invented by the Portuguese poet Luis de Camoes in *Os Lusíadas* (1572). Gr: *adamastos* "untamed"-an epithet of Hades.

Adamina ? A Scottish feminine form of ADAM. 18th C. Var: *Adama*; *Adamah* (mod).

Adaoma Y Nigerian name. Igbo: *ada* "daughter" + *oma* "good."

Adara ? Principally, the name of the second-brightest star in *Canis Major* meaning "virgins" in Arabic-the word in its singular form is the source of neighboring *Aludra*. The name was originally bestowed not just on *Adara* (Epsilon *Canis Majoris*) but *Aludra* and *Wezen* (Delta *Canis Majoris*), the two stars with which it forms a triangle. The star itself is in fact a binary star too, so the plural name remains apt. Why these stars were so named is unknown. Four and a half million years ago, *Adara* was much closer to the sun, and was the brightest star in the sky-almost as bright as the planet Venus at her greatest magnitude. *Adara* is also the name of the God of the Qemant of Ethiopia. As a given name, it is often linked now to the Hebrew *Adar*, the sixth month of the Jewish calendar, which probably derives from the Akkadian: *adaru* "to be dark." Var: *Adhara*.

Addie ? c~ Pet-form of names such as ADDISON, ADA, ADELAIDE, ADAM, and ADRIAN. Late 19th C. Var: Addy. Addie Pray (1971) was the original name of the novel by Joe David Brown on which the film Paper Moon (1973) was based.

Addison 2 c~ In origin a surname meaning "son of Adam." In the past, it was almost exclusively a male name, and was in general use in America during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the late twentieth century, it has become the latest variation of the ending -son theme to gain popularity as a girl's name. Var: Addyson.

Ade c? Generally, Ade is used as a pet-form of ADRIAN, but it is also a Yoruba name meaning "crown." The word ade is also combined with other words such as ayo "joy" in names such as Adebayo (dim: Bayo) "the crown has met with joy," and Adedayo (dim: Dayo) "the crown has turned to joy."

Adela Y A name introduced into Britain by the Normans, from the Old German Athala and its variants Adila and

Edila-adal "noble," cognate with ETHEL. One of William the Conqueror's daughters-the mother of King Stephen-bore the name, but it didn't survive the Middle Ages. Revived 19th C. In Cherokee, adela (pronounced "a-DAYla") means "beads." The French Adele has been used in the ESW since the nineteenth century, usually without the accent. Var: Adelia, Adalia, Adala, Adeliah. Bearers: Adela Pankhurst (1885-1961), the youngest and most radical of the famous Pankhurst sisters; Adela Quested, a central character in E. M. Forster's A Passage to India (1924).

Adelaide Y English form of German Adelheid < OG: adal + -heit "sort." Introduced into England in the Norman period, but did not survive. It returned in the nineteenth century after the marriage of King William IV (then Duke of Clarence) to Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen (1792-1849), who

later gave her name to the city of Adelaide in South Australia. Dim: ADDIE, DELLA, ELKE. Var: ADELIZA, Aleida, Aleidis, Aleydis, ALICE. Port, Sp: Adelaida, Fr: Adelaide.

Adelina Y Diminutive of ADELA, Adelina was introduced by the Normans. Adelina and Adeline were fairly popular in the Middle Ages, but grew rare after the fourteenth century. Revived 19th C. Var: Edelna, Adelyn. Bearers: St. Adelina (d. 1125), a granddaughter of William the Conqueror. "Ballade pour Adeline" (1976) is a musical composition made famous by Richard Clayderman.

Adeliza Y Adeliza is a medieval variant of ADELAIDE, being a contraction of Adelheidis, the Old German form of the name. It was a very popular name in the Middle Ages, until it was rendered virtually obsolete by Alice-a further contraction of the name. It clung on, though, here and there, and was still to be found in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in forms such as Adelisa, Adaliza, and Adalizah. Revived 19th C.

Adeola Y Nigerian name. Yoruba: ade "crown" + ola "wealth."

Aderyn a' Y Welsh: aderyn "bird." Late 19th C. Var: Deryn.

Adi Gc Indonesian and Malaysian name. Indonesian/ Malay: adi "precious" and "superior."

Adia y Swahili: adia "gift," specifically "valuable gift."

Aditi 2 In Hinduism, Aditi is both a Virgin and Mother Goddess, mother of all the Gods, and the whole cosmos. She is also the Goddess of divine wisdom. San: aditi "free," "limitless," and "entire."

Aditya c? Deriving from ADITI, Aditya is name of Vishnu in the Upanisads, the Aditya is also the name given to various groups of Gods in Hinduism. In the Rig-Veda, for instance, it is the name of the seven sons of Aditi, including Varuna, Mitra, and Indra.

Admetus e The name of a King of Pherae in Sicily who participated in the Calydonian Boar Hunt. He was known for his great hospitality and sense of justice. Aided by Apollo, the Fates agreed to spare Admetus on his appointed day of death if he could find someone else willing to die for him. His wife Alcestis volunteered, but the grief-stricken Admetus decided he couldn't live without her. The day was saved by Hercules, who wrestled with Death in her tomb and won, restoring her to life. Admetus and Alcestis lived happily ever after. Gr: admetos "unbroken"-a word usually reserved for oxen, hence also "wild" and "untamed."

Adohi a" Cherokee: adohi "woods" and "timber."

Adolphus ' Latinized form of Adolf. OG: Adalwulf- adal "noble" + wolf. 'This saw a little use in Britain in the Middle Ages, having been introduced by the Normans, although it did get confused with EDULF, and it didn't survive.'The Latinized form Adolphus first makes an appearance in the sixteenth century, but it wasn't until King George III named one of his sons Adolphus Frederick in 1774 that the name became established in the ESW. Dim: Dolly.

Adonis c? Adonis was a central cult figure in more than one ancient Mystery religion, being closely related to the Etruscan Atunis and Phrygian Atis, as well as the Egyptian Osiris, and the Semitic Tammuz and Hadad. All are Gods of rebirth and vegetation. His name may be connected to Heb: Adonai "lord." Beloved by Aphrodite, he was killed by a wild boar. Zeus, at her request, returned him to life, but only for the summer months, which he spent with Aphrodite. He passed the winter with Persephone in the Underworld. In ancient Athens, women planted "Gardens of Adonis" and celebrated the Festival of Adonis at midsummer by sowing fennel, lettuce, wheat, and barley which sprang up but withered quickly, reflecting Adonis's return to the Underworld. 17th C.

Adora Y Adora was created in the nineteenth century from the word "adore." This originally meant to revere or reverence a deity, deriving from

L: orare "to beg" and "to entreat." Related are Adorabella and Adorabelle, both perhaps inspired by the word "adorable" and the earlier DORABELLA.

Adrian e Adrian derives from the Latin name Hadrianus-best known as the name of the Emperor Hadrian of Hadrian's Wall fame. It means "of Adria"-a port on the Adriatic Sea.'The origin of the town's name is uncertain; it has been suggested it derives from the Illyrian adur meaning "water," which is cognate with Gr: hudor and Old Teutonic: *watar. Adrian was the name chosen by the English Nicholas Breakspear on becoming pope in 1154, and this perhaps was the main reason why the name came into use in the Middle Ages. Dim: Ade, Adie.

Adriana Y Simply the female form of ADRIAN appears as a character in Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors. The name was used in Britain from the sixteenth century, though there seems to be some confusion with AUDREY; there are a number of examples of Adria, which is more likely to be a Latinized form of Audrey than a variant of Adriana. Dim: Adie, DRINA. Fr: Adrienne.

Adriel G~ Minor biblical character. Heb: "flock of (a) God." Also the name of an angel of death. 17th C.

Adwoa 2 Ghanaian name signifying "born on a Monday" in Twi.

Aedd c~ Probably the Welsh equivalent of AODH. Aedd Mawr is mentioned in the Welsh Triads as the founder of the Isle of Britain.

Aeddan c' An Old Welsh name, probably cognate with the Irish AIDAN. It is the name of a sixth-century saint a brother of the famous Gildas-as well as a prince of Gwynedd who died in 1018. An old variant is Aeddon, which was the name of an Anglesey chieftain to whom Taliesin wrote an elegy.

Aeetes ' The name of the mythical king of Colchis in Asia Minor, son of Helius and father of Medea. He was also the brother of Circe and Pasiphae (and thus the uncle of the Minotaur). It was he who owned the famed Golden Fleece, which Jason and the Argonauts sought in their quest. Gr: aietos "terrible" and "mighty."

Aegeon c~ In Greek mythology, Aegaeon-also called Briareos-was one of the three Hecatoncheires, the hundredhanded giants each with fifty heads and a hundred arms. Regarded as the most terrible children of Uranus and Ge, they were imprisoned by the Titans within their motherEarth.'They were believed to be responsible for violent natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions.'The etymology isn't entirely clear, but most likely it derives from Gr: ek "out of" and "from" + GAIA. Even in ancient times, however, the name had become associated with the Aegean Sea and aigeios "of a goat," and so Aegeon is sometimes referred to as a "sea-goat." Var: Aegion, Egeon (hist). Aegeon occurs in Shakespeare's A Comedy of Errors as the name of a merchant of Syracuse.

Aegeus a The name of a legendary king of Athens and father of Theseus, who, according to the myth, gave his name to the Aegean Sea.'There is a Greek word-aigeios-which corresponds exactly with the Greek form of Aegeus and means "of a goat," and this was the meaning attributed in ancient times. However, it could theoretically derive from Gr: aigis, which in its most basic meaning is "goatskin" but came to mean shield-in particular the protective shield of Zeus or Athene. Given Athene's connection with Athens, this is quite a tempting interpretation. It is also highly possible that it was in fact the sea which gave its name to the king, and that its original meaning may well be something entirely different in a pre-Greek language. The Greeks were well known for re-shaping words of foreign origin to give them some semblance of meaning in their own tongueeven if that meaning didn't make all that much sense.

Aeginea ? Epithet of Artemis, deriving from the name of the Greek island of Aegina, where there is a well-preserved temple to the Goddess Aphaea. By the fifth century BCE, Aphaea was considered to be an aspect of Artemis, hence the epithet. Aegina itself acquired its name from the Greek adjective aiginos "of a goat"-i.e. "goat island."

Aegir cc The name of the Norse God of the sea. ON: cegir "ocean."

IElfen y Old English: &lfen "nymph," "spirit," and "fairy."

Aelhaearn c Welsh: ael "brow" or "eyebrow" + haearn "iron." A legendary saint of the sixth/seventh century.

Aelwen ? Welsh: ael "brow" or "eyebrow" + gwyn. Early 20th C.

Aemilia ? Feminine form of AEMILIUS, the name of a much-celebrated Roman gens. It has much influenced the development of Amelia, though the two have entirely different origins. There were numerous celebrated women in Roman history of the name. One of them was Aemilia Lepida, who was convicted and executed in 20 CE for-amongst other things-adultery, poisoning, and consulting astrologers. She can be regarded as a victim of early Witch-hunting.

Aemilian c? The name of an early third-century Roman Emperor and a mid-fourth-century saint. The latter was allegedly martyred during the reign of Julian the Apostate, and is usually known as Emilian. The Latin form of the name is Aemilianus, which means "belonging to AEMILIUS." Fr: Emilien, It, Port, Sp: Emiliano. 16th C.

Aemilius cc A famous aristocratic Roman gens. The origins are uncertain; it may be from L: aemulus "rival." In ancient times, it was believed that the gens descended from a son of Pythagoras called Mamercus, who acquired the surname Aemylus from Gr: aimulos "persuasive" or "wily." The name Mamercus itself may be a clue; it was considered an Oscan name-and so it

is possible the family itself was actually of Oscan origin, and that Aemilius derives from some Oscan word, the meaning of which is now thoroughly lost. Marcus Aemilius Lepidus (c. 89-13 BCE) is probably the most famous member of the family. With Octavian and Mark Antony, he formed what is known as the Second triumvirate-essentially a dictatorship of three-after the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BCE. 17th C. Var: Emilius, Emile. Fr: Emile.

Aeneas c~ Aeneas was the mythical founder of Rome. A Trojan prince, the son of Venus, he fled the burning towers of Troy with his baby son, carrying his aged father on his back, and was immortalized by Virgil in the Aeneid. Used most in Scotland and Ireland as a substitution for the Gaelic name Angus. Gr: aine "praise" and "fame." 16th C. Var: Eneas (hist).

Aenor Y A medieval name-also found as Adenor and Adenorde-which would have sunk into complete obscurity had it not been borne by Aenor of Chatellerault (c. 1103-1130), the mother of Eleanor of Aquitaine. The etymology is not at all clear. While the first element could be ADA, ALDA, or OG: adal "noble," the second is distinctly problematic. It might possibly be nord "north"-but this was a very rare element in names-and it is more likely that the name has a different source altogether. An intriguing possibility is that it is in fact a contraction of AZENOR.

Aeon cc Y Greek: aion "age." In English, it has come to mean an age as well as an immeasurable period of time, the whole duration of the world or universe, and even eternity. Plato used the term to denote the eternal world of ideas behind the "perceived" world, as depicted in the well-known allegory of the shadows in the cave. In Gnosticism, aeon is the name given to divine "emanations." Its use as a given name was perhaps originally suggested by its phonetic similarity to Ian, and in some cases it may be used simply as a variant spelling of that name. Var: lEon, Eon., Eon Flux is the main character in the 1991 animated series and 2005 film of the same name.

Aer e Y A Middle English name, from Old English Ealhhere-ealh "temple" + heri "army." It did not survive the Middle Ages, but did originate a number of surnames, many of which make an appearance as given names again from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Among these are AIR, AIRE, Ayre, and Eyre. The word aer is also the Latin for "air," deriving from, or cognate with, Gr: aer. Aer is also a Middle Welsh word meaning "slaughter," deriving from CC: *agro- "carnage" and "slaughter." It appears as AGR-almost certainly an abbreviation of a name-on a coin of the British Catuvellauni tribe of the late first century BCE. 19th C.

Aerfen Y Usual Modern Welsh form of Aerten, a Brythonic Goddess of fate. CC: *agro- "carnage" and "slaughter" + *tan-nu "to broaden" and "to spread," or *ten-n-d-o- "to break" and "to cut." Aerfen had a shrine at Glyndyfrdwy on the River Dee in North Wales. According to local legend, three human sacrifices had to be drowned in the Dee to ensure success in battle. Aerfen can probably be equated with the Irish Morrigan. See also Aeron.

Aerial ? cc An adoption of the English aerial "of the air" and "airy" < L: aerius "of the air." 20th C.

Aeron Y A Welsh river in Ceredigion, the name of which, like Aerfen, derives from Middle Welsh aer "slaughter." It is believed that it took its name from a hypothetical Celtic Goddess called *Agrona, whose name has been reconstructed from CC: *agro- "carnage" and "slaughter." Agrona may well have been a Goddess of war and slaughter, and as such perhaps also had strong links with the Irish Morrigan and Macha. In Modern Welsh, however, aeron has the far tamer meaning of "fruits" or "berries," with Aeronen meaning simply "berry." Var: Aeron.

Aeronwen 2 Welsh: AERON + gwyn. 20th C.

Aeronwy Y Welsh: AERON + -wy. 20th C. Dylan Thomas gave the name to his daughter in 1943, because she was conceived on the banks of the

River Aeron.

Aestiva Y Latin: aestivus "of summer," "belonging to summer," "summer-like" < aestas "summer."

Aestival 2 ' English "aestival" < L: aestivus "of summer," etc. In English, used particularly of the time around the Summer Solstice. Var: Estival.

Aether c' 2 The Roman and Greek personification of ETHER, often regarded as the fifth element, which to the Ancient Greeks consisted of the ratified air of the upper sky, the unseen mesh that pervaded and held together the universe. Gr: aither "ether," "the bright purer air," "the sky above the air." Var: Aither.

Aetheria Y Greek: aitherios "belonging to (the) AETHER." The name of one of the Heliades, daughters of the sun God Helios, who were turned into poplars after being wracked by grief for their brother Phaethon.

Aethnen Y c Welsh: aethnen "aspen" or "poplar."

Aethra Y The name in Greek mythology of the mother of the hero Theseus- and also Agamemnon's horse. Gr: aithra "clear sky," "bright sky," and "serenity."

Afallach e A character in Welsh myth; the father of Modron, he is also called Aflach. His name is often linked to Avalon, and almost certainly comes from MW: afall "apple," to which Avalon is also related (probably through CC: *aballo- rather than the Welsh). There is a Gaulish God called Abelio recorded in numerous inscriptions in France, whose name is also likely to be from, or connected to, *aballo-. It may well be cognate with Afallach. EVELAKE is an Anglicized form.

Afan c~ A river in South Wales. It is usually Anglicized today as Avon, but was often turned into Avan in the past. It presumably derives, like Avon, from CC: *abon- "river."

Afarwy cc A Brythonic God mentioned in the Welsh Triads as the son of Llud, making him one of the Children of Don. He may be the same as Averanus, a deity known from a Gaulish inscription found in France. Both probably derive from CC: *amaro- "pain." In Middle Welsh afar meant "lamentation."

Affinity 2 French: afinite < L: ajinitas "alliance by marriage" or "relationship by marriage." It later came to mean simply "relationship," "union," and "connection." Its early use in English reflected this; in the fourteenth century, it was first used specifically to mean a relationship created by marriage, and only was applied to a relationship based on inclination from the late fifteenth century, when it took on meanings of "natural friendliness," "liking," and "attraction." 20th C.

Afia y Afia signifies "born on a Friday" in Twi, and is used as a girl's name in Ghana. It also means "health" in Swahili. Var: Afya.

Africa 2 In origin this is a Scottish name, the Anglicized form of the Gaelic name OIGHRIG. Today, however, it is more likely to be used with reference to the continent. The origins of this Africa are uncertain. It may derive ultimately from Gr: aphrike "not cold," although the Romans got the name from the Carthaginians rather than the Greeks. Originally, Africa referred only to Libya, so it is possible its origins are purely Phoenician. Var: Affrica (hist).

Afsoon ? Persian name-afsan "charm," "spell," and "bewitchment."

Agamede Y The name of a woman mentioned in Homer's Iliad. She was said to know the healing powers of every plant in the world. In the later classical world, she was portrayed as a sorceress-like figure similar to Medea and Circe. Some myths say her father Augeas was the son of the sun God Helios, making Agamede Medea's cousin and Circe's niece. Gr: aga "greatly" and "strongly" + medos "plans," "schemes," and "counsels"-best interpreted "very skilled" or "very cunning."

Agamemnon e The famous Mycenaean king who led the Greeks to Troy and back-only to be murdered by his wife and her lover when he returned home. A Hittite source of the fourteenth century BCE mentions an Akagamunas ruler of Ahhiyawa"-the land of the Achaeans (i.e. Greece), which might possibly be the historic Agamemnon. Gr: agan "very" + memnon "steadfast," which is also an epithet of Zeus. 19th C.

Aganippe 2 The name of a fountain in Boeotia which was sacred to the Muses, as well as the name of the nymph who dwelt there. Gr: aganos "pleasant" and "kindly" + hippos "horse."

Agape y Greek: agape "love," a word which has been rather commandeered by Christianity, but was in use for centuries before that. Agape 7heon was a title of Isis, meaning "beloved of the Gods."The word was often used by classical authors, such as Plato, to denote the love and affection felt between spouses, parents, and children. 17th C.

Agar c~ Agar is a late medieval form of both EDGAR and ELGAR. It survived in occasional use, though most examples since the seventeenth century are probably of the surname-which derives from the same source-being used as a given name. Agar is the name of a healer in the Arthurian Romances, who treated Tristan after he was mortally wounded. "Agar" is also used as a variant of agarwood, an aromatic, resinous heartwood used in incenses, as well as a simplified form of agar-agar, the gelatinous substance extracted from seaweed, traditionally used in Japanese deserts such as mizuyokan.Agar-agar means "jelly" in Malay.

Agaric Gc Fly Agaric is the well-known, poisonous, redspotted toadstool of folklore. An old name for it was the pixie's seat mushroom, and it is commonly called the spotted toadstool. Ruled by Mercury and Air, agaric is also known for its hallucinogenic properties. It may have been an ingredient in Soma, a ritual drink mentioned in the Rig-Veda. Viking berserkers may have used fly agaric, and it is believed to have been one of the ingredients in the "flying ointment" used by European Witches in the Middle Ages to

promote visions and out-of-body experiences. A more prosaic-though practical-use in the past was as a fly catcher. The head of an agaric was placed in a saucer of water or milk to attract the flies, which, having become sufficiently narcotized, tumbled into the liquid and drowned.

Agate c~ Y The semi-precious crystal. Gr: achatis "agate." It has long been valued for its beauty and durability, and used for both decorative items, such as beads and statuettes-even window panes-and practical, such as leather polishing tools. There are numerous different types, each believed to have unique qualities. Generally, agates are considered to be very grounding and harmonizing stones, good for overcoming negativity and building self-confidence.'The surname has the more prosaic meaning of "(dweller) at a gate." 18th C.

Agatha 2 The huge popularity of St. Agatha in Britain in the Middle Ages is reflected in the popularity of her name, encountered in a number of variant and vernacular forms in the period, such as Agacia, Agata, Agace, and Agas. Gr: agathos "good."The tale of St. Agatha, however, is particularly gruesome, even by the usual standards of Catholic hagiography. For refusing to succumb to the advances of the (naturally) Pagan Roman prefect of Sicily, Agatha was tortured-which included cutting off her breasts-and executed.'These scenes have been frequently pictured in art across the centuries, with Agatha invariably portrayed carrying her breasts on a tray like a pair of macaroons. Contemporary evidence for her existence is non-existent, and first references to her date from the sixth century.'There was in Rome, however, a well-established cult of a Goddess known as the Bona Dea-the "Good Goddess," which may well be significant. There is a fair amount of evidence that her worshippers believed she was connected to both Juno and Isis, and, intriguingly, there are many vestiges of the worship of Isis in the festivals of St. Agatha on Sicily, where the cult of Isis was strong in ancient times. A further interesting "coincidence" is that these festivities begin on February 2nd-with one of her areas of patronage being protection against fire, linking her to Brigid, who is also sometimes equated

with Isis. Agatha, like Isis, is closely connected with cats; in France, Agatha is said to appear in the guise of an angry cat to women who work on her feast day, and in Languedoc she even used to be called Santo Gatto. All of this points to St. Agatha in reality being the Christianization of the Bona Dea and Isis. Dim: Aggie. Ru: Agafia, Agafya; Ganya, Gasha (dim), Cz, It, Sp: Agata, Da, Fr, Get, Nor: Agathe, Sw: Agda, Hun: Agota, Port: Agueda. Bearers: Agatha Christie (1890-1976), the English writer and archaeologist.

Agathon cc Greek: agathos "good" + suffix -on. Borne by an Athenian writer of tragedies, who was a contemporary of Plato and featured in his Symposium (c. 385 BCE). He also appeared in Aristophanes's Thesmophoriazousae (411 BCE).

Agave Y The Agave of Greek mythology did not have a cheerful history. She and her sisters Autonoe and Ino slandered their other sister Semele, after Semele was killed by Zeus appearing in his full Godhead to her. Semele's son, the God Dionysus, avenged her by driving Agave, Autonoe, and Ino insane, compelling them to tear Agave's son Pentheus to pieces with their bare hands. Gr: agauos "illustrious" and "high-born." This is also the source of the name of the agave plant. Well known for its sweet syrup-used in the production of mescal as well as as an alternative to sugar-the flow

ers are roasted and eaten as a food in South America. Herbalists use a tincture or tea from the leaves as a diuretic and to treat complaints as diverse as constipation and arthritis. 20th C.

Agena Y A triple star in Centaurus (Beta Centauri) also known as Hadar. Agena possibly derives from L: genu "knee," referring to the star's location in the constellation.

Agetor cc Greek: agetor "leader." An epithet of Zeus, Apollo, and Hermes.

Aglaia Y Principally, Aglaia was the name of one of the three Graces (the other two being Thalia and Euphrosyne). Gr: aglaia "splendor," "beauty," and "adornment." Other figures in mythology bearing the name include a nymph and a lover of Heracles. Fr: Aglae, Lat: Aglaea.

Aglaonice Y Aglaonice is often called the world's first recorded female astronomer. She lived in the second century BCE, and was said to have tricked the local populace into believing she had drawn down the moon during lunar eclipses. This has led some to speculate that she had worked out how to predict them. Gr: aglaos "splendid" and "bright" + nike "victory."

Agnes Y Agnes was one of the most popular girls' names in medieval Britain. In the medieval period, it was often used in vernacular forms such as ANNIS, Anis, Annise, ANISE, and ANNOT. The veneration of St. Agnes was entirely responsible for its adoption. St. Agnes is first recorded by St. Ambrose, writing in the latter half of the fourth century, but his tale contains none of the sensational material of later accounts. St. Agnes is well known to have blatantly taken the place of Gabija, the Lithuanian Goddess of fire, when Lithuania was Christianized, and there are many who believe that Agnes's origins herself lie in the Christianization of a Pagan Goddess. This may have been the Celtic Ann, who may also lie behind the English folk-figure Black Annis. Early on, the name came to be associated with L: agnus "lamb," leading to the saint's usual depiction with a lamb. Agnes is usually derived from Gr: hagnos "pure," although the form Agnes is curious. If it was truly from hagnos, it ought to have been Hagne or Hagno in Greek (there was a nymph called Hagno in Greek mythology-she was one of Zeus's wet-nurses), and latinized as Hagna. It rather strengthens the case that Agnes's true origins lie elsewhere. Dim: Aggie, Taggy, NESSIE. Lith: Agne, Dut: Agnes, Fr: Agnes, Hun: Agnes, It: Agnese, Sw: Agneta, Dan: Agnete, Scand: Agnetha, Agnethe, Pol: Agnieszka; Jagienka, Jagna (dim), Jr Ga: Aigneis, Fin: Aune, Sp: Ines, INEZ, Port: Ines. Bearers: Agnes Sampson (d. 1591), "Wise Wife of Keith," healer, midwife, and a victim of the Berwick Witch trials; Agnes Naismith (d. 1697) was one of

the Paisley Witches, executed in 1697-she died cursing everyone present at the execution and all their descendants. Agnes Grey (1847) was Anne Bronte's first novel.

Agni a' The Hindu God of fire. San: agni "fire."

Agrestizia Y The name of Sir Percival's sister in late medieval Italian romance. A major character in Grail Cycles, she is also known as Dindrane, Heliabel, and Amide-although she is nameless in some versions. L: agrestis "belonging to the country," "wild," and "rustic."

Agrimony 2 A plant of Jupiter and Air, with a long history of use in herbalism and magic. Its tall, graceful spikes of yellow flowers earned it the country name of church steeples. Another name is philanthropos, either because of its great usefulness, or because the seeds cling to passers-by as though they wish to befriend them. L: agrimonia "agrimony"-the ultimate meaning of which is unknown. In Ireland it is known as mur-Druidhean, "the sorrow of the Druids." It has been used in magic since at least Anglo-Saxon times, when it was believed that agrimony placed beneath a pillow would put a person into a deep sleep until it was taken out again. In the time of Geoffrey Chaucer it was used in preparations to protect against bad luck, and it is still used in magic for protection and to promote sleep. A tea made from agrimony was often drunk in times past in the spring as a "blood-purifier," and herbalists still use it for a whole range of complaints and conditions from diarrhea to rheumatism, though it is particularly valued in the treatment of liver ailments and to ease digestion.

Agrippina 2 The name of two women of the Julio-Claudian imperial dynasty. Agrippina the Elder was much praised for her "virtues" (as judged by the standards of Roman men). Agrippina the Younger, on the other hand-her daughter, the mother of the emperor Nero-became one of the most vilified women in history, but judged, once again, by Roman men, whose testimonies are all we have. Agrippina is the feminine form of the Roman cognomen Agrippa, the meaning of which is unknown. 16th C.

Agrotera Y Epithet of Artemis. Gr: agroteros "of the wilds."

Ahab o~ Biblical name. Heb: "brother," "uncle," or "father." It is most associated now with the character of Captain Ahab in Herman Melville's Moby Dick (1851). Late 17th C.

Ahasuerus c~ Hebrew form of XERXES, the famous Persian king. 17th C.

Ai y A Chinese and Japanese name. Both can mean "affection," while the Chinese can also mean "friendly," and with a different character in Japanese, "indigo." The Japanese name Aiko combines ai with ko "child."

Aibhne c~ Old Irish name, Anglicized as Eveny or Aveny. The meaning is very uncertain. Aibhne is the modern genitive form of the Irish: abhainn "of a river," but whether this is a coincidence or demonstrates a genuine connection is difficult to say. It may also be connected in some way with AOIBHEALL.

Aibhse ? Scots Gaelic: aibhse "specter" and "sprite."

Aida 2 Arabic name-aid "returning." It was made very familiar in the West through Verdi's famous opera Aida (1871). The opera was massively successful at the time, and Aida has been used as a given name in the ESW ever since. A few examples also exist before 1871, but these are likely to be variants of ADA. Var: Aida, Ayda.

Aidan c~ Usual English form of Irish Aodhan-aodh "fire" + dim. suffix -dn, used in Ireland since at least the sixth century. Var: Aaden, Adan, Aiden, Aydan, Ayden (mod); Aedan (Ir Ga). W: AEDDAN. Bearers: St. Aidan of Lindisfarne (7th C); Aidan Kelly (b. 1940), an Irish poet and writer, specializing in Witchcraft and Paganism.

sage. Aidana Y Kazakh name-ai "moon" + dana "genius" and

Aidos d' Kazakh name-ai "moon" + dos "friend."

Ailbhe Y In Irish myth, Ailbhe was the name of a female warrior of the Fianna. It is also the name of an alleged sixth-century male saint, often called Albeus in records. He was supposedly left in the woods as a baby and suckled by a wolf; when he grew up, an old she-wolf came to him and laid her head on his breast. It is quite likely that he is one and the same as the Gaulish God ALBIUS, and perhaps also ALBIORIX. CC: *albiyo- "world" and "white." See also Alban. 'The usual Anglicized form of Ailbhe is Alvy, but Alby and ELVIS are also known, deriving from the Welsh EILFYW.

Ailill a In Irish mythology, Ailill was the husband of Queen Medb of Connacht. He and Medb argued over who was the richest; they were equal, except for the fact that Ailill owned a prize bull. Its only match in Ireland was owned by Daire mac Fiachna, and Medb determined to acquire it to out-do Ailill-leading to the famous Cattle Raid of Cooley. Ailill is probably a variant of OILILL.

Ailith Y Medieval English form of Old English IE\$elgyth (A6e1gyii)-&e el"noble"+ gyd "strife" or "battle."

Ailsa Y The name of the rocky Scottish island. The nineteenth-century actress Ellen Terry is alleged to have exclaimed upon hearing the name, "Ailsa Craig! What a magnificent name for an actress!" The correct pronunciation is "I-la," but AYL-sa" is also used. It is often treated as a variant of ISLA or ELSIE, and in the twentieth century, it has sometimes been used as an Anglicized form of Scots Gaelic Ealasaid, the Scots Gaelic form of ELIZABETH. Ailsa cock and Ailsa parrot are localized names for the puffin in some parts of Scotland and County Antrim.'The name of the island itself derives from Alfsigesey-"Alfsigr's island." ON: Alfsigr-dlf "elf" + sigr "victory." The modern Scots Gaelic name of the island is officially Allasa, but it is still popularly known as Creag Ealasaid. See also Elsa.

Aimi 2 Japanese name-ai "affection" + mi "beautiful."

Aimo a' Finnish name-aimo "good," "real," and "good quantity."

Aina Y The Catalan form of Anna, Aina is also found as a girl's name in Japan-ai "love" + na "vegetables" or "greens." In Finnish, aina means "always," and is treated as a variant of AINO. The word aina has meanings in other languages also; a'ina means "mirror" in Hindi, "life" in Malagasy, and "holy" in Quenya.

Aine 2 In Irish mythology, Aine, one of the Tuatha De Danann, is first and foremost a Goddess of midsummer and the sun. She also has associations with cattle, fertility, sovereignty, healing, and love, although Aine as a Goddess of love is sometimes treated as a separate deity. Knockainy in County Limerick is named after her (Cnoc Aine), and rites in her honor were held at midsummer well into the nineteenth century. She is probably one and the same with AYNIA and possibly also with ANU, and may also be a dual sun Goddess with Grian, presiding, like the Oak and Holly kings, over different halves of the year. The etymology of the name isn't one hundred percent certain, but the most likely source is 01: dne "heat" and "light," cognate with L: ignis "fire" and San: AGNI. Var: Aithne, EITHNE.

Aino Y Finnish name. It was invented by the Finnish writer Elias Lonrot for his Finnish language epic The Kalevala (1849). Fin: ainoa "only"-a reference to the fact that Aino in the poem is an only daughter (though she does have a brother). Var: AINA.

Ainsel Y A fairy of Northumberland folklore, recorded in The Fairy Mythology (1870) by Thomas Keightley. The tale goes that a fairy girl comes down the chimney to play with a little boy. She tells him her name is Ainsel and asks him his. He misunderstands her and thinks she has said, in local dialect, "own self" He replies cautiously, "My Ainsel." They play together happily until he stokes the fire. A cinder jumps out and accidentally burns Ainsel. She screams and the voice of the fairy mother is heard asking who has hurt her. "My Ainsel!" she cries. The mother replies,

"Well, then, there's noone to blame," and a long arm reaches down the chimney and plucks her up.

Ainsley Y c~ English surname, from Annesley in Nottinghamshire, or Ansley in Warwickshire. The meaning of both is not entirely clear; they may both derive from OE: *ansetl* "hermitage" + *leah*, though the first element of Annesley may be the Anglo-Saxon male personal name *Anna/*An*, which may derive from OE: *an* "each," "every," "one," and "all." 19th C, though increasingly used for girls since the latter twentieth century. Var: Ainslee, Ainsleigh, Ainslie, Aynsley.

Air a Y Air, as one of the four elements, is immensely important in most Pagan traditions. It is considered the element of clarity and creativity, associated with the East, the rising sun and springtime. Romans and Greeks envisioned air as a substance, encompassing wind, climate, mist, and odor, as well as-in Late Latin-breath and spirit. Examples of Air as a middle name in the nineteenth century probably represent the adoption of the English surname, which mostly evolved from OF: *eir* "heir." In some cases, however, its source was the ME first name AER. The word air derives through Norman-French from L: *aer*, and was spelled in numerous ways in the medieval and early modern period, including Aer, Aere, AIRE, Ayr, and Ayre.

Aire e Y Modern variant of AER and a medieval variant of AIR, Aire is also the name of a number of rivers-one in Yorkshire, one in France, and one in Switzerland-as well as three French towns and one Swiss one. PIE: **reyH-* "to flow," cognate with L: *rivus* "river." The same root is behind other similarly named rivers such as the Ayr in Scotland, two rivers called ARROW in Britain, a number of rivers called Aar in Europe, and the Arve which flows through Switzerland and France.

Aisha 2 Arabic name-dish "alive" and "living." It is famously the name of Mohammed's favorite wife. It has long been popular in the Islamic

community, but has been taken up more generally in the last forty years or so. Var: A'isha, A'ishah, Ayesha, Iesha.

Aisling y Irish Gaelic: aisling "dream" and "vision." Anglicized as Ashling. The aisling is a genre of Irish poetry popular in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It typically featured a woman appearing in a dream and lamenting the fate of Ireland. Var: Ashleen, Ashlyn, Ashlynn.

Aita e Etruscan God of the Underworld. It may be cognate with-or derive from-the Greek HADES. Var: Eita.

Aitor a' Basque name-aitor "witness" and "testimony," although it is traditionally derived from aitoren sameak "sons of good fathers"-i.e. "noblemen." It was first used by Agosti Xaho in The Legend of Aitor (1845) as the name of the founder of the Basque people.

Aizack Gc Variant spelling of ISAAC, which is used traditionally in Herefordshire as a name for the dunnock-a shy, small brown bird.

Ajax c~ Usual form in English of the Greek Aias, the name of two heroes who fought at Troy. The most important is sometimes called Ajax the Great, and was regarded as second only to Achilles amongst the Greek forces. After Achilles was killed, Ajax went into an almighty sulk because the Greeks decided to give Achilles's famous armor to Odysseus instead of him. He went temporarily insane and rampaged around the Greek camp; upon regaining his sanity, he couldn't live with the shame and killed himself. The theme of Ajax and Achilles playing a board game together during a lull in the fighting at Troy is a popular one on Greek vases. It is possible that the name was originally that of an Earth God, deriving from Gr: aia, a variant form of Gaia found in epic poetry. Late 17th C.

Aje 2 ' Yoruba: aje "witch."

Akane 2 Japanese name-akane "madder," "madder red," and "deep red."

Akasha a y Sanskrit: akasa "sky," "ether," and "heaven." The Akashic Records are said to be a library which exists on a separate plane of existence, containing a complete history of the entire universe, and the whole accumulation of human knowledge and spiritual understanding. It is believed by many that the Akashic Records have been accessed by human beings of various cultures throughout history-and can still be accessed through shamanic journeying and/or astral projection. 20th C.

Akiko ? Japanese name-aki "autumn/fall" or "bright" + ko "child."

Akira G~ Y Japanese name with different meanings depending on the kanji used. Popularly, it is one meaning "bright" and another meaning "clear."

Akos c? Hungarian name of uncertain origin; probably Turk: ak "white" + us "base" and "military installation."

Akosua Y A Ghanaian girl's name signifying "born on a Sunday" in Twi.

Akua 2 In Twi, Akua is used as a name for a girl born on a Wednesday.

Ala Y Ala is found in the Middle Ages as a variant of ELLA. In Latin, ala means "a wing." In Bulgarian and Serbian mythology an ala is a storm demon, while in Igbo, ala means "earth" and "land."

Alabaster 5 Y The name of a type of fine, translucent rock, in particular pure white varieties composed of carbonate or sulfate of lime. OF: alabastre < L: alabaster < Gr: alabastos "alabaster." It may have been named after a town in Egypt, or possibly be from Egyptian: bAS "ointment jar"; alabaster was often used for small jars and bottles for oils and ointments. The surname derives from OF: arbalestier "crossbow-man." 17th C.

Aladdin c? Anglicized form of Ala' ad-Din. Ar: ala' "nobility" and "eminence" + al "the" + din "faith," "religion," and "belief" The story of Aladdin is one of the best known stories from The Thousand and One

Nights, although it was not originally a part of it; it was added in the early eighteenth century by a French translator. 19th C.

Alamina Y Romani girl's name. It may be a corruption of WILHELMINA.

Alan c~ Old Celtic name. Four Dukes of Brittany were called Alan in the tenth and eleventh centuries, and it was popular among the Normans. Its etymology is uncertain. However, a strong case can be made that it is connected with Alaunus and ALAUNA-the names of a Celtic God and Goddess. Though no inscriptions have been found to these deities in Britain, numerous place and river names were called Alauna in Roman times, hinting at their worship, such as the River Alauna in Northumberland-now called the Aln. There is also a river in Wales called the ALYN. Its name in Roman times is not known, but it is likely it was Alauna too; its Welsh name is Alun, which is the Modern Welsh form of Alan. Even more compellingly, the Old Welsh form of the boy's name Alun is ALAWN, which demonstrates very strong echoes of Alaunus indeed. Even if the given name Alan did not descend directly from Alaunus, the two almost certainly share the same source. Alan is often linked to the Modern Welsh ALAW, or CC: *(f) ali-s- meaning "rock." The most likely source is CC: *al(aun) o- "nourishing." Var: Allan, Allen; Aleyn, Aleyne (hist). Bearers: English novelist Alan Garner (b. 1934), well known for his many children's books containing elements of British myth and magic, such as *The Owl Service* (1967). A minstrel called Alan a'Dale features in some versions of the Robin Hood legend.

Alana Y Generally regarded as the feminine form of ALAN, Alana could also be considered a variant of ELENA or ALINA. Late 19th C. Var: Alannah.

Alanis Y Spanish and Greek surname. The Spanish derives from the town of Alanis, a name of Arabic origin. The Greek is from Turkish: alan "open place." In the latter part of the twentieth century, it was taken up as a

feminine form of ALAN, made well-known by the Canadian singer Alanis Morissette (b. 1974).

Alaric c~ The name of the king of the Visigoths who sacked Rome in 410 CE. It was in order to defend Rome against him that Emperor Honorius removed the last of the Imperial troops from Britain. Alaric is the English form of Alaricus, the Latinized form of Gothic all-s "all" + reiki "ruler" and "authority." 19th C.

Alastair c Anglicized form of Alasdair, the Scots Gaelic form of ALEXANDER. A more unusual Anglicization

is Aleister, the form adopted by the poet, writer, ceremonial magician, and founder of Thelema, Edward Alexander "Aleister" Crowley (1875-1947). Crowley chose it for its meter (a dactyl followed by a spondee-i.e. DA-da-da DA-DA), and because Aleister is a variant of the Gaelic form of Alexander. Although as Crowley said himself, "The atrocious spelling A-L-E-I-S T-E-R was suggested as the correct form by Cousin Gregor, who ought to have known better. In any case, A-L-A-I-S-D-A-I-R makes a very bad dactyl." Var: Alistair, Allister. Dim: Aly.

Alastor d The personification of vengeance and an epithet of Zeus. Either Gr: alastos "not to be forgotten" and "insufferable," or Gr: alaomai "to make wander." It is sometimes treated as a variant of ALASTAIR. Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody is a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Alator c~ A Brythonic God equated with the Roman God Mars. CC: *al-o- "to feed" and "to nourish."

Alauda ? Latin: alauda "lark." Alauda is also a variant of ALAUNA.

Alaula Y Hawaiian name-alaula "light of early dawn" or "sunset glow" < ala "path" and "road" + ula "flame."

Alauna Y Alauna, the titular deity of the Gaulish Alauduni tribe. She appears in inscriptions in France and Germany, and her name occurs across the Celtic world in toponyms, such as the River Alauna in Northumberland (now called the Aln) and the Roman town of Alauna Carvetorium in Cumbria. The town which stands on the site today is called Maryport but for a long time it was called Ellenfoot. It sits on the River Ellen, and it is tempting to think that this river may well have been yet another named Alauna in Celtic times, and that it was the river which gave the Roman settlement its name-not an uncommon occurrence. There is only one example of Alauna known from Britain-a third-/fourth-century alloy sheet discovered at Bath-but it is unknown whether it refers to the Goddess or a woman called Alauna. CC: *a/(aun)o- "nourishing." Var: Alauda, Alaunia, Alouna.

Alaw a' Y Welsh: alaw "harmony." Late 19th C.

Alaway 2 Mi'kmaq: alaway "pea." The name Alawa, encountered from the late twentieth century, probably derives from it.

Alawn c~ Old form of Alun, itself the Welsh form of ALAN. Alawn was the name of one of the first three Bards of Britain-as listed in the Barddas by Iolo Morgannwg- who contributed to the development of the Ogham alphabet. Revived 20th C.

Alba c~ 2 The Gaelic name for Scotland, cognate with Albion. CC: *albiyo- "(upper) world" and "white." "The word is also the feminine form of L: albus "white." "There are numerous towns called Alba in Europe, including the ancient city of Alba Longa where Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome, were born. In Italian, alba means "dawn"; the name with that meaning was given by Claire Claremont to her illegitimate daughter by Lord Byron in 1817. Byron later changed it to Allegra. In Alabama, alba is the name of the copperhead snake. 16th C. Bearers: Alba DeTamble, a time-traveling child in Audrey Niffenegger's *The Time Traveler's Wife* (2003).

Alban G~ There are three saints of this name; two are British. There is also the Irish Ailbhe, who may be connected too. The most famous is the Alban who gave his name to St. Albans, a soldier supposedly martyred in or around 283 CE. There are, however, the Celtic Gods ALBIUS and ALBIORIX, who may be one and the same, not only with each other-but also with Alban. There is no evidence for St. Alban's existence before the late fifth century. If Alban was a real historical figure, his name may derive from the Latin cognomen Albanus "of Alba (Longa)." This is unlikely, as even the legends say that he was a native Briton. Therefore, even if he was a real man, it is likely his name derives from CC: *albiyo- "(upper) world" and "white." This is also the source of Welsh: alban "solstice," which is used in modern Druidry for the names of the solstices and equinoxes-Alban Arthan, Alban Eilir, Alban Hefin, and Alban Elfed. 11th C. Var: ALBANY.

Albany Y e Albany began as the name of an area of Scotland broadly corresponding to the former kingdom of the Picts. It was first bestowed as a dukedom by King Robert III of Scotland on his brother, and has been used as a title in the Scottish and later British royal families ever since. Other bearers included Lord Darnley, husband of Mary, Queen of Scots, King Charles I (prior to becoming King), and Prince Leopold, son of Queen Victoria. Albany is first found as a given name in the Middle Ages as a variant of ALBAN. Originally a male name, it is now almost entirely female.

Alberic c~ A Norman name deriving from Old German Albirich "elf ruler." It quickly vanished in Britain after the Norman Conquest, being superseded by the vernacular forms of the name-Alberi and Auberi-which in time became AUBREY. Revived 19th C. Bearers: two tenth-century dukes of Spoleto; St. Alberic of Cîteaux (d. 1108), a founder of the Cistercian Order.

Albert c Old German: Adalberht-adal "noble" + berht, cognate with ETHELBERT. Albert was introduced to Britain by the Normans, but it wasn't until after the marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert of Saxe-

Coburg-Gotha (1819-61) in 1840 that the name really took off in the ESW. Var: Aubert (hist); Adalbert, Adelbert. Dim: Al, BERT, Alby, Albie, Berrie. It, Sp: Alberto, Ger: Albrecht. Bearers: Albert Einstein (1879-1955); Albert Camus (1913-60), the French philosopher and Nobel-prize winning novelist. A Witch in the American television series Sabrina the Teenage Witch (1996-2003) was also called Albert.

Alberta y Feminine form of ALBERT. Used in the ESW from the eighteenth century, but most use post-dates the marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert in 1840. Var: Albertina, Albertine. Dim: Berrie, Alby, Albie.

Albin (~ Latin: Albinus "belonging to ALBUS"-a Roman cognomen and the name of a fourth-century saint. Both Albin and the Norman-French Aubin are found in use in the Middle Ages.

Albina ? Feminine form of ALBIN. The name of a third-century saint about whom little is known; the nineteenth-century American folklorist Charles Leland said that Albina was the name of an Etruscan Goddess of the dawn. In later Italian legend, she was believed to be a fairy, who appears at dawn to help those whose love was unreciprocated. 17th C. Var: Albinia.

Albion Y Now regarded as a poetic name for England, Albion was once applied to the whole island of Britain. It derives from the same source as the Scottish ALBA. Even in Roman times, it was considered an ancient name. It is often thought to derive from L: albus "white" and to refer to the White Cliffs of Dover, but it is more likely to be from CC: *albiyo- "white" and "(upper) world," as opposed to the "underworld." 16th C-originally a male name, now used for both sexes.

Albiorix c~ A Gaulish God whose name means "king of the world," deriving from CC: *albiyo- "(upper) world" and "white" + *r g- "king." The Romans mostly equated him with Mars, but one inscription survives linking

him with Apollo. He was probably the patron deity of the Albici tribe of southern Gaul, and may be one and the same as ALBIUS.

Albius c~ The name of a Gaulish God associated with the Goddess Damona, possibly making him a God of healing. CC: *albiyo- "(upper) world" and "white." Albius was also the name of a Roman poet, Albius Tibullus, usually referred to as Tibullus, who died in 19 BCE. L: albus "white."

Albreda Y Latinized form of ALFRED when used as a female name in the early medieval period. It was common in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, but fell out of general use after that, although it may have survived in vernacular forms, out of which APHRA may have arisen. The Germanic equivalents Alberada and Albrada were introduced by the Normans as Alverat, Alvered, and Albrad, and gave rise to Albray and AUBREY. Revived 19th C.

Albuna 2 A nymph who dwelt in a fountain at Tibur (modern Tivoli). She is sometimes said to have been a prophetess. Probably L: albus "white," she may be one and the same as the Goddess ALBINA later recorded by Charles Leland. Var: Albunea.

Albus o~ Latin: albus "white." Used since at least the nineteenth century, and possibly earlier. It has been made virtually a household name by J. K. Rowling as the name of one of the principal characters in the Harry Potter series-the Wizard and Hogwarts headmaster, Albus Dumbledore.

Alcaeus cc In Greek mythology, Alcaeus was the son of Perseus and father of Amphitryon. According to some ancient sources, it was the original name of Heracles. It was also the name of various historic figures in the ancient world including the poet Alcaeus of Mytilene. He was a contemporary of the famous poetess Sappho and is often regarded as her lover. 19th C.

Alcanna Y The botanical name for some species of alkanet. Sp: *alcana* < Ar: *al-henna*-the name of a shrub known as Egyptian privet, from which henna is made. 19th C.

Alcestis Y Alcestis was an Ancient Greek princess who gave her life to save her husband Admetus, but was brought back to life by Heracles. She is the eponymous heroine of one of the extant plays of Euripides, first performed in 438 BCE. Gr: *alke* "defense," "defensive strength," and "valor."

Alchemilla Y Botanical name for the herb lady's mantle, which has long been highly regarded in herbalism for its effectiveness in gynecological complaints. In folklore it is believed that if lady's mantle is placed under the pillow, or a pillow is stuffed with the herb, it will promote a good night's sleep. Late L: *alcbimia* "alchemy"-arising because of the alchemist's belief that dew from the leaves of lady's mantle can turn base metals into gold. Dew collected in May is considered most potent. Certainly, lady's mantle does capture dew well; it sits at the centre of each leaf like a crystal-clear jewel. Ruled by Venus and Water, it is used in love spells.

Alchemy c~ ? The history of alchemy goes deep into ancient times. The fundamental ideas are believed to have originated in Persia, from where it spread across the ancient world. Philosophical and proto-scientific, its principal goals were to achieve both wisdom and immortality. However, the goals of turning common metals into gold, creating the elixir of life, and finding a universal solvent are the best-known features. Late L: *alchimia* "alchemy" < Ar: *al-kimia* "alchemy" < Gr: *Khemia*, a Hellenized form of Egyptian: *kmt* "Egypt" (normalized as Kerner) < *km* "black" (normalized as Kem, Khem, or Kham)-a reference to the fertile black soil along the Nile in contrast to the desert land beyond. Thus *Khemia* in Greek came to mean "the Egyptian arts"-i.e. "alchemy." Late 20th C. Var: *Alchimia*.

Alcina Y The eponymous heroine of an opera by Handel first performed in 1735. Based on Ludovico Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, it tells the story of the

sorceress Alcina, and how the adventurous Bradamante rescues her lover Ruggiero from the enchanted island where Alcina lives with her sister and fellow enchantress, Morgana. The meaning of the name is uncertain. It may derive from ALCIS, ALCYONE, or Alcinous-the name of the king of Phaeacians and ruler of another island realm of Greek mythology. The female version of Alcinous is Alcinoe, a name borne by two minor characters of Greek mythology, one the daughter of a king of Corinth and the other a naiad. Gr: alke "defense," "defensive strength," and "valor" + nous "mind." It is also possible that Ariosto coined the name himself directly from alke. 17th C.

Alcis G~ Y Alcis is an epithet of Athene, used in ancient times by the Macedonians in particular. Gr: alke "defense," "defensive strength," and "valor." Alcis is also the name of a dual God of the Germanic Nahanarvali tribe, mentioned by the Roman historian Tacitus. His name probably derives from a cognate German word meaning "force."

Alcmene 2 The mother of Heracles. Gr: alke "defense," "defensive strength," and "valor" + mene "moon." 17th C. Var: Alcmena.

Alcyone y Alcyone, daughter of Aeolus, God of the winds and her husband Ceyx affectionately called each other "Zeus" and "Hera." This, however, angered Zeus, who killed Ceyx with a thunderbolt while he was traveling to consult an oracle. Ceyx's ghost appeared to Alcyone to tell her of his fate, and in her grief she threw herself into the sea. At this point, the Gods finally took pity on them and transformed them both into kingfishers. Alcyone means simply "kingfisher" in Greek. Gr: alkuon "kingfisher," traditionally from Gr: hals "salt" + kuon "dog." 19th C.

Alda 2 Old German: alda "old." The name was introduced by the Normans, and was mostly used in the forms Auda or the French Aude-this was probably the everyday form of the name during the Middle Ages. Rare after the fourteenth century, it was revived in the nineteenth. Var: Aldy, Audy, Elde, Eldy, Elda, Eldah, Eldia (hist).

Aldan c' The name of the legendary founder of the Scottish Clan Home has two possible origins; it could be the Scots Gaelic form of ALDWIN, or a variation of the Old Norse name Haldane-"half-Dane." Aldan did not survive long in the Middle Ages, and its use from the late sixteenth century-largely in England-probably represents an adoption of the surname, which derives from the same sources. Var: Alden, Auden.

Aldebaran c' The popular name of Alpha Tauri in the constellation Taurus. It is one of the most easily recognizable stars, the bright, angry red star forming one of the points of the horns of the Bull-the prominent "V" shape in the night sky. Ar: dabar "to turn the back" and "to pass"; Dabaran is actually the Arabic name for the Hyades (the V-shaped star cluster). Aldebaran is one of the "royal stars" of the Ancient Persians, ruling over the vernal equinox and called the "Watcher of the East." A star of good fortune, it portends wealth and glory, and culminates on January 10. Late 19th C. Fem: Aldebara (mod).

Alder c~ Y The alder grows in damp conditions, and has always been highly regarded. In the Ogham, its name is Fearn. A very flammable wood, alder is associated with Fire-but also with Water, as it is often found beside rivers and streams. It is ruled by Venus and Pisces. Alders also have the peculiar quality of enriching the soil in which they grow. Where they sit in water, the wood doesn't rot, but turns rock-hard-it was thus much used in the making of ancient track-ways across bogs, and in the construction of crannogs in Ireland. These give it qualities relating to the element of Earth too. According to Irish myth, the first man was fashioned from the alder, and in Welsh mythology, the tree is strongly associated with Bran. Alders are also linked with the fairies, said to allow passage to their world. It possesses the additional quality of healing, being used by herbalists for a number of complaints from throat infections to rheumatism, and the Celts used the leaves, bark, and young shoots to make dyes. Unsurprisingly, all this has made the alder a sacred tree; a tree of protection, endurance, and harmony. Alder is found as a given name from the seventeenth century,

though these examples probably represent the transferred use of the surname. This also derives from the tree-so it makes little difference.

Aldhelm cc Old English: Ealdhelm-eald "old" + helm "helmet." St. Aldhelm was a seventh-century poet and scholar. The name didn't survive the Norman Conquest, but was revived in the nineteenth century.

Aldith y Old English: Ealdgyth (Ealdgyd)-eald "old" + gyd "battle." It was sometimes rendered as EDITH-as is the case with Ealdgyth, queen of Edmund Ironside. Aldith died out by the thirteenth century, but was revived in the nineteenth century. Var: Aldyth.

Aldous cc Either from Old German Aldo < alda "old," which was introduced by the Normans, or Aldusa, a woman's name arising from Old English names beginning with the cognate eald. Aldo was often Latinized as Aldus, such as the famous Italian humanist Aldus Manutius, founder of the fifteenth-century Aldine Press at Venice. Aldus and/or Aldusa gave rise to a number of surnames, but fell out of use in the thirteenth century. Among those surnames was Aldous, which has been used since the seventeenth century, largely in Suffolk, England. Bearers: Aldous Huxley (1894-1963), the pacifist and humanist writer, who had an interest in mysticism and parapsychology.

Aldred c~ Old English: Ealdred (Ealdraed)-eald "old" + reed "counsel"-and ETHELDRED. Aldred has survived to the present day, although the adoption of surnames as given names from the sixteenth century probably did much to save it. Var: Eldred.

Aldwin a' Old English: Ealdwine-eald "old" + wine "friend." It didn't last long after the Norman Conquest, but was revived in the nineteenth century. Var: Aldwyn.

Alecto ? One of the Furies of Greek mythology, along with her sisters Megaera and Tisiphone. They were the daughters of Gaia, born of the blood

spilled by Uranus when he was castrated by Cronus. Alecto's role was to avenge anger. Gr: alektos "unceasing" and "interminable."

Aled Gc A Welsh river and lake. Possibly CC: *al(aun)o- "nourishing." 19th C. Bearers: Aled Jones (b. 1970), the Welsh singer.

Alethea Y Greek: aletheia "truth." 16th C. Var. Alatheia (hist). Bearers: Lady Alethea Talbot (1585-1654), wife of Thomas Howard, 21st Earl of Arundel, a prominent English courtier and patron of the Arts. Alethea herself was very interested in the use of herbs; her recipes were published in a book called *Natura Exenterata* in 1655.

Alexa Y Alexa first appeared as a Latinized form of ALICE in medieval documents, only developing into a genuine name much later through association with ALEXANDER. Exclusively Scottish until quite recently. Var: Alexiawhich is also a medical term for an inability to see words or to read.

Alexander Gc A common name in the Greek world, most famously borne by Alexander the Great, the Macedonian king who conquered Egypt and the East as far as India, dying in Babylon in 323 BCE at the age of thirty-two. It was also another name of the Trojan hero Paris. Gr: alexandros "defending men." 12th C. Dim: Alec, Alex, Alick, SANDY (trad); Al, Lex, Xander, Zander (mod). Sc Ga: ALASTAIR, Jr Ga: Alastar, Sp: Alejandro, Bul, Mac: Aleksandar, Alb, Cro, Pol, Serb: Aleksander, Ru: Aleksandr; SASHA (dim), Fin: Aleksanteri, Santeri, It: Alessandro, Dut, Ger: Alexander, Cz: Alexandr, Fr: Alexandre, Mod Gr: Alexandros, Rom: Alexandru, Hindi: Iskander, Turk: Iskender, Skandar, Ukr: Oleksander, Hun: Sandor. Bearers: three kings of Scotland; Alexander Pope (1688-1744), the English poet; Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922), the Scottish engineer and inventor; Edward Alexander "Aleister" Crowley (1875-1947), the English occultist; Orrell Alexander Carter, a.k.a. Alex Sanders (1926-88), founder of Alexandrian Wicca, and self-styled "King of the Witches." Alexandrian Wicca was not, as some think, named specifically after Alex, but after the

Great Library of Alexandria in Egypt, which was named after Alexander the Great.

Alexandra 2 Feminine form of ALEXANDER, used since medieval times, but rare before the nineteenth century. Although it is often found in Latin documents of the Middle Ages, evidence suggests that the women so-named were actually called Alexander. Most of the name's use in the ESW dates from after the marriage in 1863 of King Edward VII (then Prince of Wales) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark (1844-1925). Dim: ALI, Alex, Aly, LEXIE, SANDY. It: Alessandra; SANDRA (dim), Sp: Alejandra, Bul, Pol, Ru, Serb: Aleksandra, Cz, Dut, Get, Mod Gr, Port, Rom, Scand: Alexandra.

Alexandria Y A variant of ALEXANDRA used from medieval times. Its use may have been influenced by the name of the famous ancient city in Egypt, renowned for its great library, university and scholarship, as well as being the centre of the cult of Isis. It was the home of Queen Cleopatra, the astronomer Ptolemy, and prominent Pagan philosopher Hypatia.

Alexandrina ? The use of Alexandrina dates to medieval times and was the more usual feminine form of ALEXANDER in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Queen Victoria's full name, for instance, was Alexandrina Victoria. Alexina is a contracted form, arising in Scotland in the eighteenth century. Dim: DRINA.

Alexei c? The Russian form of ALEXIS, famous as the name of the last Tsarevich, Alexei Nicolaevitch Romanov (1904-18). Var: Alexey. Dim: Alyosha, Lyoshka (Ru). Bearers: Alexei Sayle (b. 1952), British actor, comedian, and author.

Alexis C? Y Greek: alexo "to defend." It was the name of a fourth-century BCE comic playwright. St. Alexis-also known as Alexius-is a shadowy fifth-century saint, whose cult developed first in the East. He is much venerated in the Orthodox Church, hence the popularity of the name in

Russia in the form ALEXEI. 17th C-though most use dates from the nineteenth onwards, since when it has also been used as a girl's name. Its use as a female name was popularized by the actress Alexis Smith (1921-93), and more recently by the character of Alexis Colby in the American soap opera Dynasty (1981-89). It: Alessia Y.

Alfajiri 2 e Swahili: afajiri "dawn."

Alfdis Y Icelandic name. ON: df"elf" + dis. The word dis had the literal meaning "sister," but also meant "spirit" or "Goddess," used specifically of the disir-the Goddesses of Fate.

Alfred e There were two separate Old English names which later took the form Alfred. The best known is A lfraed-pelf "elf" + reed "counsel," as borne by one of the most famous of all the Kings of Anglo-Saxon England, King Alfred the Great of Wessex (849-99). The other was IElfrip-gel "all" + fri• "peace." Alfred became unusual after the thirteenth century, but never fell out of use completely, occurring in various vernacular forms as well as Alfred such as Auvery and ALVERY. Revived 18th C. In the early medieval period, it was also used as a girl's name, being Latinized as ALBREDA. Dim: Alf, Alfie. Fr: Alfred; It, Port, Sp: Alfredo. Bearers: Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-92), the British poet; Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980), the British film-maker.

Alfreda Y Alfreda is found in the Middle Ages, when ALFRED was used as a female as well as a male name. Revived in the nineteenth century as a feminine form of Alfred. It is sometimes confused with ELFREDA.

Algernon c' This name arose as a nickname for William de Percy, one of the companions of William the Conqueror from Fr: aux gernons "with whiskers." It was adopted as a given name by the Percy family from the late fifteenth century, passing into general currency by the nineteenth. Dim: A1gie,Algy. Bearers: Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837- 1909), the

British poet. Algernon Moncreiff is a character in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895).

Alhazen c~ The name by which the Arab polymath Abu `Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham (965-c. 1040) is known in the West. He is also called Ptolemy the Second. Arabic: al-Hasan "the fine" and "the beautiful." Var: Alhacen.

Ali c~ Y In the ESW, Ali as a boy's name is principally a pet-form of ALASTAIR, while as a girl's, it is short for ALEXANDRA, ALISON, and ALICE. It is, however, also an Arabic boy's name-`ali "sublime," "lofty," and "exalted." Var: Aly, Ally, Alie.

Alia 2 Old German: al a "all." Alia is probably the original form of ELLA. The word alia can also mean "another (girl)" in Latin, while in Arabic it is the feminine of ALI. Var: Aliya, Aliyah, Aaliyah (mod).

Alianor Y Although Alianor is almost certainly a medieval Provençal form of HELENA, there is an outside chance that its origins are actually Germanic-being possibly one and the same with AENOR. Alianor is often said to be the source of ELEANOR, and the two were often used interchangeably in the Middle Ages; the English Queen Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine (1122-1204), for instance, was known as Alienor in Aquitaine. Her mother's name was Aenor, and folk-etymology likes to derive Alienor from a combination of L: alia "another (female)" + Aenor. This play with words may have been in the minds of her parents, but it is not the source of either Alienor or Eleanor. Both had already been in use for at least a hundred years at the time of her birth; Eleanor of Normandy (c. 1011-aft. 1071) was the aunt of William the Conqueror, while the wife of the tenth-century Aimery II de Thouars, was called Alienor. Thus the superficial "other Aenor" meaning can only really have been an influencing factor in the naming of the Duchess. Such thinking is often a factor in choosing names today and there is no reason to suppose that things were all that different a thousand years ago. Var: Alianora, Alienor, Alienora.

Alice 2 Old German: Adelheidis-adal + -heit "sort," source also of ADELAIDE. Alice was introduced by the Normans in the form ADELIZA and has been in use ever since. Its use was significantly boosted in the nineteenth century, after Queen Victoria gave the name to one of her daughters-Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse (1843-78). Var: ALICIA, Alys; Alisa, Alissa, Alyssa (mod). Dim: ALI, ALISON. Sc Ga: Ailis, It Ga: Ailis, Fr: Alice, Sp: Alicia, W: Alys. Bearers: Dame Alice Kyteler (fl. 1302-24), the first person known to have been accused and tried for Witchcraft in Ireland. Alice is the central character in Lewis Carroll's Alice cAdventures in Wonderland (1865) and Through the Looking Glass (1871).

Alicia Y The Latin form of ALICE. For much of its history it was used only in Latin documents, but since the eighteenth century, it has increasingly been used as a name in its own right. Var: Alisha, Alyssa (mod).

Aliena ? A pseudonym used by Celia in Shakespeare's As You Like It to conceal her real identity. L: alienus "other." Late 18th C.

Alina Y Medieval hypocoristic form of ADELINA. Popular between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries, it survived in occasional usage beyond. It has been much confused, especially in recent times, with ALANA. Var: Aline.

Alison Y A medieval pet-form of ALICE, formed by the addition of the diminutive suffix -on. It was common in the thirteenth century, being treated as an independent name even then. Alison continued in use in Scotland until it returned to general use across the ESW in the twentieth century. Var: Allison; Alicen, Alyson, Alisoun (hist). Dim: Allie, Ally, Aly, Alie, ALI. Bearers: Alisoun, a character in The Canterbury Tales; Alisoun, the subject of a well-known fifteenth-century song with the refrain, "and light on Alisoun."

Alitta Y According to the Greek historian Herodotus, writing in the fifth century BCE, this was the name by which Aphrodite was worshipped in

Arabia. He was almost certainly referring to Al-Lat, the Arabian Goddess of the sun (or moon) and the supreme Goddess of the Arabian pantheon. Her name derives from the old Arabic and means simply "the Goddess."

Alizee y Modern French name < alize "trade wind." Popularized by the French singer Alizee Jacotey (b. 1984).

Alkahest e 2 The hypothetical universal solvent of the alchemists, which they believed would dissolve anything, including pure gold. The word was probably invented by Paracelsus. It is sometimes said, especially by `ltheosophists, to derive from the German Allgeist meaning "universal spirit."

Alkanet c~ Y The name of numerous plants, such as common bugloss (*Anchusa officinalis*), dyer's bugloss (*Alcanna tinctoria*), and green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*). Each of these can be used for dyes. The roots of green alkanet, for instance, which has lovely, brilliant blue flowers, produce a rich red dye. Priestesses in Ancient Egypt are said to have used it to dye their hair, and the plant is known to have been cultivated in medieval monasteries for the dye. Magically, it is used for purification. The name derives from the same source as ALCANNA, through Anglo-Norman: alkenet.

Allectus e The name of a late third-century Romano-British emperor in Britain and northern Gaul, defeated by the emperor Constantius in 296 CE. His name is almost certainly Celtic-possibly CC: *al(aun)o- "nourishing."

Allegra Y Lord Byron coined the name Allegra from It: allegro "happy" and "cheerful" for his illegitimate daughter Clara Allegra (1817-22). She was originally called Alba by her mother, but Byron changed her name after taking custody of her in 1818.

Alma Y Used from the Middle Ages, Alma appears to derive from L: almus "nourishing" or "kind," though it may in reality represent the Latinized form of an Old English name. Possibilities are *,Flfmaege-_elf "elf" + mcege

"woman, maiden" or *JE3elmaege-œ1 "noble" + mcege. There is a rare English surname Almy (also spelled Almay and Almey) which either of these two names may have given rise to. Alma appears as the "Head of Temperance" in Spenser's Faerie Queene, but it wasn't until the Battle of Alma during the Crimean War (1853-56) that the name began to see wider usage. The battle took its name from the river by which it was fought, which takes its name from a Crimean word meaning "apple," closely related to the Turkish ELMA; the related Kazakh word for apple is also alma, and is used as a girl's name in Kazakhstan. Var: Elma, Almy (hist).

Almeda 2 Almeda is mostly a Spanish name, deriving from a Spanish surname, itself of Arabic origin, meaning "the plateau." It is, however, sometimes derived from the Sp: alamo "a poplar." Almeda is also the traditional English name of the Welsh saint Eiliwedd or ELUNED. 19th C. Bearers: Almeda Riddle (1898-1986), an American folk-singer often known as "Granny Riddle."

Almeric c~ Norman form of Old German Amalric- amal "world" + ricja. Its usual form in the Middle Ages was AMERY, but Almeric just about survived. Var: Almaric (hist).

Almira Y Almira, Queen of Castille (1705) was Handel's first opera. It is usually said Handel coined the name, perhaps inspired by the Spanish names ELVIRA and Edelmira, and the Latin almus (see Alma). Edelmira is the feminine of OG: Adalmar adal "noble" + mari "famous," a name taken to Spain in the early medieval period. However, Almira and variants appear to have been in very occasional use before the eighteenth century. It is possible these names represent Latinized feminine forms of AMERY or AYLMEER. Whether Handel came across any of these is unknown. Var: ELMIRA.

Almond a' Y Deriving ultimately from Gr: amugdale, the almond has long been known and valued for its nutritional and medicinal qualities, as well as for its beautiful blossoms. In Jewish tradition, the almond is regarded as a

symbol of watchfulness because of its early blossoming, and it is said that Aaron's famous rod was made of its wood. Ruled by Mercury and Air, almonds are associated magically with wisdom and prosperity. The surname Almond derives from OF: Aleman "German." 17th C.

Almos c Hungarian: dlmos "drowsy" and "sleepy" although the name may actually derive from the related dlom "dream." This would better fit the mythology surrounding its first known bearer, a semi-legendary ninth-century Grand Prince of the Magyars. His mother Emese reputedly had a vision in a dream around the time of his conception, in which a mythical bird flew down and impregnated her.

Alnea ? Latin: alneus "of the alder."

Alnus c~ Y Latin: alnus "alder."

Aloe Y e The aloe is native to Africa. Aloe vera was known to the Greeks and Romans, who used it to treat wounds. Since the Middle Ages or earlier, the leaves have also been used as a laxative. Ruled by the Moon and Water, it is still used in modern herbal medicine for soothing skin injuries and complaints, such as eczema, and minor burns, while internally, it is valued for digestive problems. The original meaning of "aloe" is uncertain. The word is taken from the Greek name for the plant-aloe-which was used to translate the Hebrew akhalim, but this is actually the name of another plant-the agalloch. 20th C.

Aloha Y Probably the most famous of Hawaiian words, treated by most as simply a greeting; it is actually much more than that, meaning "love," "mercy," "compassion," "grace," "sweetheart," and "lover."

Aloisia Y Usually treated as the feminine form of ALOYSIUS. Aloysius, however, only came into use in the seventeenth century among Roman Catholics in honor of St. Aloysius (d. 1591), with most instances occurring in the nineteenth century, while many examples of Aloisia date to the

sixteenth and seventeenth centuries-and some earlier still. This suggests that in fact it originated as a variant spelling of ELOISA. Var: Aloysia-the botanical name of lemon verbenä.

Alondra 2 As a given name Alondra began as a pet-form of Alejandra, the Spanish form of ALEXANDRA. The word alondra also means "lark" in Spanish.

Alonso cc Spanish and Italian variant form of ALPHONSO. 17th C. Var: Alonzo. Dim: Lon, LONNIE. Bearers: Alonso Alavrez de Pineda (d. 1519), a Spanish explorer and cartographer important in the early history of the United States. Alonso Quixano is the real name of Cervantes eponymous hero Don Quixote.

Alonza Gi Y Variant of the Spanish ALONSO and Alonsa, itself the feminine form of ALON SO. 19th C.

Alouette Y French: alouette "lark." It is not used as a name in France. It is familiar through the Quebecois children's song "Alouette, gentille Alouette." Most people, however, don't realize that the song is actually about plucking a dead lark in graphic and gory detail.

Aloysius (? Latinized form of LOUIS, used in Italy in the late Middle Ages. It was adopted by Roman Catholics across Europe in honor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga of Lombardy. Bearers: Aloysius Lilius (c. 1510-76), the Italian medic and astronomer responsible for the Gregorian Calendar; Aloysius, Lord Sebastian Flyte's beloved teddy bear in Evelyn Waugh's Brideshead Revisited (1945).

Alp c~ Turkish name-alp "hero," "brave," and "heroic."

Alpha Y c~ The first letter of the Greek alphabet. Many of the brightest stars in the sky feature Alpha as part of their scientific names, such as Alpha Canis Majoris, the brightest of them all, better known as Sirius.

Alpha is found as a given name from the eighteenth century, particularly for first-born children, but also sometimes for its Christian connotations, as, according to the Bible, Jesus claimed to be "the Alpha and the Omega"-i.e. the beginning and the end. The Hebrew equivalent Aleph is also in use.

Alphaea ? Latinized form of Alphaia, an epithet of Artemis, deriving from the name of the river God Alpheus, who was in love with her. She was worshipped under this name at Letrini in Elis, and at Ortygia, near Sicily, and shared an altar with Alpheus at Olympia. Var: Alpheiaea.

Alphard c Alphard-Alpha Hydrae-is the brightest star in the constellation Hydra-the great water-serpent. It is sometimes called Cor Hydrae-"the heart of the Hydra," but Alphard itself derives from Ar: al fard "the individual (one)"-the same root as FARID-a reference to the fact it is the only bright star in that part of the sky.

Alpheratz o' Y The traditional name of Alpha Andromedae, Alpheratz is also known as Alpherat and Sirrah. Although appearing as a single star, it is in fact a binary system. Both Alpheratz and Sirrah are from Ar: surrat alfaras "the navel of the horse," as the star also used to be considered part of neighboring Pegasus. Along with Beta Cassiopeiae (Caph) and Gamma Pegasi (Algenib), it is one of the "Three Guides." In astrology, it is believed to confer wealth and honor upon those born under its influence; it culminates on November 10.

Alpheus Gi The name of one of the most famous rivers and river Gods in Greece. Alpheus fell in love with the nymph Arethusa and changed his course so that he flowed under the sea all the way to Sicily to be with her-although a less romantic tradition has Hercules re-routing the river in order to clean out the Stygian stables as one of his ten labors. Alpheus is generally considered to be the inspiration behind the "sacred river" Alph in Coleridge's "Kubla Khan." 17th C. Var: Alphaeus.

Alphonsine Y French feminine form of ALPHONSO. 19th C.'The Alfonsine Tables-named after King Alfonso X of Castile-date to the thirteenth century. They were developed to calculate the position of the sun, moon, and planets in relation to the fixed stars.'They were in use across Europe until the seventeenth century, when they were superseded by Kepler's Rudolphine Tables.

Alphonso Alphonso derives from Alfonso, the Spanish form of the Old German name Adalfuns, the elements of which mean "noble" and "ready." One of the sons of King Edward I was called Alphonso in honor of his maternal uncle King Alfonso IX of Castille, and, for a brief time, Prince Alphonso was heir to the throne of England, until his death at the age of ten in 1284.The name was used among other members of the Norman-French aristocracy in medieval times, such as Sir Alphonso de Vere (d. 1328), a son of the 5th Earl of Oxford.'The French form Alphonse was also used, as was the Latin Alphonsus. Dim: Fonsie, Fonso, Fonz, Fonzie. Bearers: Alphonse Louis Constant (1810-75), better known as Eliphas Levi, the French magical theorist.

Alpin c? An ancient Scottish name, borne by two Pictish kings in the eighth century.'The traditional derivation of the name is from the Anglo-Saxon name IElfwine (see Alwin). It is perhaps more likely, however, that it derives from a Celtic source, probably CC: *albiyo- "(upper) world" and "white," making it cognate with ALBA and ALBION.'The Scottish surnames Macalpin, McAlpine, Alpin, Alpine, and Elfin derive from it.

Alshain e Y The star Beta Aquilae in the constellation Aquila. Ar: al-shahin "the falcon," specifically, the peregrine falcon.

Altair c' Y The brightest star of Aquila, Altair's astronomical name is Alpha Aquilae. With Deneb and Vega it forms the Summer Triangle, three bright stars which lie virtually overhead at midnight during the summer months in the Northern Hemisphere.'The name is an abbreviation of the Arabic an-nasr at-ta'ir; nasr is "eagle," ta'ir means "flying," so, strictly speaking Altair

means "the flying (one)."The association with eagles is ancient; it was known as the Eagle Star by the Babylonians and Sumerians, thousands of years before.

Altan Turkish name-al"vermilion" and "flame scarlet" + tan "dawn."

Althea Y In Greek mythology, Althea was the mother of Meleager.'The name was used by Richard Lovelace in his poem "To Althea, from Prison," written in 1642 and containing the famous lines: "Stone walls do not a prison make/ Nor iron bars a cage." It has been much mixed up with ALETHEA.'The origin of Althea is quite separate from Alethea, however; Althea is from Gr: althaia "marsh mallow" < althos "healing" and "medicine." Late 16th C. Var: Althaea.

Altin ' Turkish: altin "gold."

Altinai 2 Kazakh name-altin "gold" + ai "moon." Var: Altynai.

Altyerre c? Y In the Australian Aboriginal language Arrernte, Altyerre means "Dreamtime" or "The Dreaming." The Dreamtime is a concept which features prominently in Aboriginal spirituality. It was in the Dreamtime that the spirit beings first came into being, and it continues to this day, a parallel existence, akin in some ways to Western Pagan beliefs regarding an Otherworld. It is time before time, and a time outside time. It is the "Everywhen." Var: Alchera, Altjira, Altjeringa.

Aludra Y The historical name of Eta Canis Majoris, a blue supergiant in the constellation of Canis Major. Ar: al-'aura "the Maiden"-the same origin as its sister star, Adara. 19th C.

Alula Y The name of two binary star systems in Ursa Major-Nu and Xi Ursae Majoris. They are differentiated with the surnames Borealis "Northern" and Australis "Southern," respectively. The name comes from Ar: al-Ula "the first"; both stars have the full name in Arabic: al-Qafza' al-

Ula "the first leap" with "of the Gazelle" understood-the Gazelle being the constellation Leo Minor. Alula can also mean "little wing" in Latin and is used to describe a bird's "thumb." It is also the Anglicized form of the Olulu (botanical name *Brighamia insignis*)-a very rare Hawaiian plant. 20th C.

Alva c~ y Biblical name. Heb: "exalted" or "high." Alva has also been used as the English form of the Irish Gaelic female name *Almhath*. The older form is *Almath*, the name of the wife of a late seventh-/early eighth-century king of Leinster. Its meaning is unknown, though it is possible the second half of the name is related to *flaith* meaning "sovereignty" and "ruler" which features in other Irish names such as *Orla*. In Portuguese, *estrela d'alva* is the name of the Morning Star < *alvo* "white" (the Portuguese word for dawn is *alvorada*). 17th C. Var: *Alvah*. Bearers: Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931), the American scientist and inventor.

Alvar e Alvar is a late medieval form of Old English *Elphere*-4f "elf" + here "army." It survived long enough in the Middle Ages to give rise to the surname. 18th C. Var: *Elver*.

Alvery Medieval form of ALFRED, which remained in use well into the nineteenth century. The variants *Alvera* and *Alverah*, which occur from the seventeenth century, demonstrate the pervasive (or rather invasive) influence of biblical names at the time. Var: *Alvary*, *Alverey*.

Alvin c~ Late medieval form of ALWIN and AYLWIN. Revived in the nineteenth century, especially in America. This was probably because of its similarity in appearance to Calvin. Var: ELVEN, Elvin.

Alvina ? Feminine form of ALWYN and ALVIN. In Flemish legend, Alvina was the name of a king's daughter who was cursed by her parents for marrying against their wishes. From that day on she became invisible and roamed the air weeping. It is still said in West Flanders that when the wind howls loudly, Alvina is weeping. Var: *Elvina*, *Elfina*.

Alwen Y A Welsh river dammed in the early twentieth century, creating Llyn Alwen (the Alwen Reservoir). The origin is not certain; the second element superficially resembles Welsh gwyn, but it is possible-probable even-that Alwen shares the same origin as ALAN, ALAUNA, and ALYN, namely CC: *al(aun)o- "nourishing." 20th C. Var: Alwena.

Alwin c~ Old English: IElfwine-pef"elf" + wine "friend," and IEdelwine-&ael "noble" + wine. It gave rise to the surname ALVIN, and never quite died out, experiencing a revival in the nineteenth century. The variant Alwyn is now treated as the Welsh form of the name, though historically it has seen just as much use in England. Var: AYLWIN; Elfwin, Elwin, Elwyn (hist).

Alya Y Principally, an Arabic name, closely related to ALIA; it tends to be translated as "heavens," "sublimity," and "lofty." Alya is also the traditional name for Theta Serpentis, a binary star system in the constellation Serpens. Ar: alyah "fat tail," used of sheep.

Alyn e Anglicized form of Afon Alun, the name of a tributary of the River Dee. Its name almost certainly evolved from the Celtic ALAUNA, which was known to have been the original name of the River Aln in Northumberland. Caer Alyn is a prehistoric fort on its banks. It has been used as a given name since the nineteenth century, mostly, but not exclusively, in Wales.

Alzira Y The eponymous heroine of Verdi's opera Alzira (1845), based on Voltaire's play Alzire (1736). In the opera, she is made the daughter of Peruvian chieftain Ataliba, but in Voltaire, her father is Montezuma. It is believed that Voltaire invented the name. Late 19th C. Var: Alzire.

Ama ? Carrying the sense of "born on a Saturday" in Twi, Ama is a Ghanaian girl's name. The word ama also means "mother" in Basque-and Sumerian-and is the command form of the Latin verb amo meaning "to love," thus ama means "love!" Meanwhile, in Cherokee, ama means "water." Var: Aroma.

Amabel 2 Latin: amabilis "lovable," Amabel was first used in the Middle Ages, and quickly turned into MABEL, although Amabel itself never died out. Bearers: Amabel Strachey (1894-1984), novelist and wife of the eccentric architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis.

Amadeus c' Famous as Wolfgang Mozart's middle name, Amadeus has long been used in continental Europe; seven Counts of Savoy alone bore the name in the Middle Ages. Latin: amo "to love" + deus "(a) God"-i.e. "loved by (a) God." Used in the ESW as a given name-largely in Mozart's honor-since the nineteenth century. Amadeus (1984) is a much-acclaimed film based on the 1979 play of the same name by Peter Shaffer.

Amadis a' Amadis of Gaul was a hugely influential knighterrant tale in the Early Modern period. The first known printed version was published in Zaragoza, Spain, in 1508 as Amadis de Gaula. Amadis is the son of the star-crossed lovers King Perion of Gaul and Elisena of England, and the stories tell of his fantastic adventures as he discovers his identity. The name almost certainly derives from AMADEUS.

Amaethon e Amaethon appears in Culhwch and Olwen as the only man who could till a particular field-one of the tasks Culhwch had to complete before he could claim Olwen's hand. He also appears in the Cad Goddeu "'Me Battle of the Trees" from the fourteenth-century Book of Taliesin. One of the sons of the Goddess Don, he is presumably a God of agriculture. W: amaeth "agriculture."

Amaia Y Epithet of Demeter. The meaning is obscure. It may possibly derive from Gr: maia "mother," "nurse," and "midwife," although the prefix a- means "without"; it may have carried a similar meaning to the adjective amaieutos "without a midwife" or "not yet delivered." Amaa is now also used in Spain as a variant of AMAYA. Var: Amaea.

Amalthea Y The foster-mother of Zeus, who cared for him on Crete. Gr: amalos "soft," "tender," and "gentle" + thea "(a) Goddess." Amalthea is

often depicted with the Cornucopia-the horn of plenty. She may well have originated as a nurturing fertility Goddess-perhaps the Minoan Dikte. She is sometimes depicted as a goat, and sometimes as a goat-tending nymph.'The goat-whether Amalthea herself or the goat she tended-eventually became Zeus's protective shield (known as the Aegis). Capra, an ancient constellation meaning "she-goat," is believed to have represented Amalthea, but she is not connected to Capricorn. 19th C.

Amalur 2 Basque name-ama "mother" + lur "earth." Var: Amalurra.

Amana 2 a Swahili: amana "trust," "pledge," and "vows"; in Hausa, it means "friendliness." It can also mean "peace" in Hindi.

Amanda Y Latin: amandus "fit to be loved," "deserves to be loved." Amanda owes most of its use to poets and playwrights in the seventeenth century, when it featured in plays such as Colley Cibber's *Love's Last Shift* (1696) and Vanbrugh's *The Relapse* (1696). Its use in the twentieth century is largely as a result of its appearance in Noel Coward's *Private Lives* (1930). Dim: Mandy.

Amandine y French diminutive form of AMANDA, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. In France, amandine is also a term used for a dish garnished with almonds.

Amandla Y Ndebele, Xhosa, and Zulu: amandla "power," "force," and "authority."

Amani y Arabic name-amniah "wish," and "aspiration"; amani is plural. Amani also means "peace" in Swahili.'This also derives ultimately from an Arabic source-the same as the Arabic AMINA.

Amanita Y Botanical name for the fly agaric. Gr: amanitai-a word used for a type of fungi, though what, is not actually known. Late 20th C.

Amami y cc Zulu, Xhosa, and Ndebele: amanzi "water."

Amaranth ? ' Greek: amarantos "unfading"; the amaranth-flower was the mythical sacred plant of Artemis. In modern usage, amaranth is a name given to a group of herbs, many of which have useful and health-giving properties.'The amaranth is a traditional food plant in Africa producing a nutritious seed used in the same way as quinoa. In other parts of the world, amaranth is grown as a leaf vegetable. Meanwhile Native Americans used one variety of amaranth to produce a deep red dye.'The ornamental plant love-liesbleeding is also a member of the amaranth family. Ruled by Saturn and Air, Amaranth is used magically in spells of healing and protection. 19th C. Var: Amaranthe.

Amarantha Y Amarantha was used by the seventeenthcentury poet Richard Lovelace for a poem written in 1649 entitled "To Amarantha, That She Would Dishevel Her Hair." It begins, "Amarantha, sweet and fair/Ah braid no more that shining hair!" Gr: amarantos "unfading."There is some evidence it came into use as a given name slightly before Lovelace's poem. Var: Amarintha,Amarinthia.

Amaranthus c' The botanical name for amaranth. Gr: amarantos "unfading." Amarynthus was the name of a young hunter beloved by Artemis. Unfortunately, he claimed the bounty of the hunt was superior to that provided by the sea. This insulted Poseidon, who drowned him with a giant wave, and the grieving Artemis transformed him into her sacred plant-the amaranth.

Amari c' Y A name of uncertain origins, which came into use in the last quarter of the twentieth century. It may have been inspired by AMIR, or represent the adoption of the Italian surname Amari < It: amaro "bitter." Amari is also a Japanese family name; the word amari means "remainder," "remnant," "surplus," and "excess" in Japanese-but this is probably coincidental.

Amaryllis 2 A shepherdess in the poetry of Roman poets 'Theocritus, Ovid, and Virgil. It was adopted by the Swedish botanist Linnaeus in the late

eighteenth century for a genus of bulbous plants originating from South Africa. Gr: amarusso "to sparkle." Like many names from Greek and Roman literature, Amaryllis was also taken up by English poets, appearing in Edmund Spenser's "Colin Clouts Comes Home Againe" (1595) and John Fletcher's play The Faithful Shepherdess (1609). 16th C.

Amarynthia Y Epithet of Artemis, derived from Amarynthos, a place on the island of Euboea in Greece, where she was worshipped. Var: Amarynthia. See also Amaranthus.

Amarsia 2 Artemis was worshipped under the name Amarsia Artemis at the ancient city of Athmonon in Attica, now known as Marousi. The derivation of the name is unclear, but it is traditionally derived from AMARYNTHIS.

Amasis c~ Greek version of the Egyptian name Ahmose, and the name of more than one king of Egypt. Amasis II (d. 526 BCE) was the last great native Egyptian pharaoh. Egyptian: Ah (the name of the Egyptian God of the moon) + ms(i) "to bear"-i.e. "Ah bore (him)" or "born of Ah." The more poetic translation often encountered is "child of the moon." A popular name in Ancient Egypt, this may be the true source of MOSES.

Amara 2 Amara was the name of the wife of King Latinus of Latium. L: amatus "beloved.-There was also a thirteenth century saint of the name. 17th C-though where records are in Latin, examples may be representing AMY, rather than Amara itself.

Amaya ? Spanish name. Often said to be a Basque name, but this is because it first appeared in a novel of 1879 by Francisco Navarro-Villoslada, Amaya, or the Basques in the Eighth Century, in which Amaya is the central character. Navarro-Villoslada probably simply invented it-likely adapting it from Basque: amaia "The End" < amai "end." The use of the name was further promoted in Spain by Jesus Guridi's opera Amaya (1920).

Amaya is now also treated as a Japanese name-ame "rain" + ya "night," although it is little known in Japan itself.

Amazolo 2 ' Ndebele and Zulu: amazolo "dew."

Amazon ? a The Amazons were a race of warrior women in Greek mythology. Greek a- "without" + mazos < mastos "breast," referring to the fact the Amazons were said to burn off their right breasts to make drawing a bow easier. They took men from neighboring tribes as lovers and any sons they bore were killed or sent back to their fathers. The river Amazon was originally named Santa Maria del Mar Dulce "St. Mary of the Sweet Sea," which was later shortened to Mar Dulce. In the mid-sixteenth century, it was dubbed Amazonas by the Holy Roman Emperor, after he heard tales of female warriors allegedly encountered on its banks by conquistadors. 19th C.

Amazonia Y Old name for the regions through which the River Amazon flows. 20th C.

Ambar a' ? Indian name. San: ambara "sky."

Amber Y Amber is among the birthstones for Taurus and Cancer, with a reputation for promoting love, strength, courage, and good fortune. The Ancient Greeks believed that amber was the tears of the sisters of Phaethon, turned to poplar trees in their grief after their brother was killed by Zeus. Phaethon, the son of the sun God Helios, had ridden the chariot of the sun out for the day, but lost control; Zeus was forced to kill him before he destroyed the Earth. Another ancient belief was that amber was the solidified light of the setting sun on the sea. Amber beads are mentioned in Homer's Odyssey, and amulets carved from amber have been found in the graves of Vikings in Norway. Ar: 'anbar "ambergris," possibly < Ger: anbern "to burn," since ambergris was burnt as an incense in ancient times. Through a confusion in the early Middle Ages, the term became applied to the fossilized resin. Like a number of other precious and

semiprecious stones, Amber came into use as a given name in the nineteenth century, but its use largely postdates its appearance in novels such as Mary Webb's *The House in Dormer Forest* (1920) and Kathleen Winsor's *Forever Amber* (1944). Var: Ambra, Ambre. Bearers: Amber Reeves (1887-1981), the British feminist, writer, and scholar.

Ambika 2 Sanskrit: ambika "mother." One of the names of the Goddess Durga.

Ambretta Y Another name for the musk seed (*Hibiscus abelmoschus*), an evergreen shrub with culinary and medicinal uses. The aromatic seeds are mixed with coffee by the Arabs and used in perfumery elsewhere. In Egypt they are chewed as a breath-freshener. The fruit is added to soup and pickles. The word derives from AMBER. Late 19th C. Var: Ambrette.

Ambriel ' ? An angel said to rule over Gemini. The meaning is uncertain; the second element is the Hebrew element el"(a) God," but the first is unknown. 20th C.

Ambrose c~ Latin: Ambrosius < Gr: ambrosios "divine" or "immortal." The fourth-century saint of the name is responsible for its popularity in Britain in medieval times. It survived the English Reformation, mostly in the Catholic community. The name is famously borne by two legendary figures of British history, the war-chief Ambrosius Aurelianus- who is thought by some to be the historic King Arthur and Merlinus Ambrosius a.k.a. Merlin. It: Ambrogio, Fr: Ambroise, Sp: Ambrosio, Slv: Ambroi, Hun: Ambrus, W: EMRYS.

Ambrosia Y Greek: ambrosia "immortality"-the name of the food of the Gods, which bestowed immortal life upon all who consumed it. It was also the name of one of the Hyades-the nymphs who brought rain. Today, it is the botanical name of humble ragweed. Var: Ambrosina; Ambrosine (Fr). 16th C. Bearers: Ambrosia Sidney (d. 1576), sister of the poets Sir Philip Sidney and Mary Sidney.

Amelia ? Old German: Amalia-amal "work." Taken to Britain in the Middle Ages, it has been much confused with AEMILIA. It was reintroduced in the eighteenth century by the Hanoverians, especially Princess Amelia (1711-86), daughter of King George II, who was usually called EMILY. Henry Fielding's novel *Amelia* (1751) also promoted it. Dim: AMY, MILLIE. Fr: Amelie. Bearers: Amelia Bloomer (1818-94), the American feminist after whom "bloomers" were named; Amelia Earhart (1897-1937), the American aviatrix; Amelia Sedley, a principal character in Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* (1847-48); Amelia Peabody, eponymous heroine of the *Amelia Peabody* novels (1975-); Amelia "Amy" Pond, a character in the British television science-fiction series *Doctor Who* (1963-).

Amena Y A queen helped by King Arthur in medieval Arthurian Romance. Sp: ameno "pleasant" and "delightful"- though it is possible the name was adopted by the writers of the romances from the Arabic AMINA. 19th C.

Amenhotep c~ The name of a number of pharaohs of Egypt between the sixteenth and fourteenth centuries BCE. Egyptian: AMUN + Htp "peace" or the related sHtp "to satisfy."

Amergin e Two poets in Irish mythology bear this name. Amergin Gluingel ("White Knee"), a Bard, Druid, and judge of the Milesians; Amergin mac Eccit was a poet and hero of the Ulster Cycle. The etymology isn't all that clear; the second element is probably CC: *geno- "born"; while the first may be 01: amor "music" or amar "wailing" and "moaning." Var: Amorgen, Amairgin.

America 2 The name America is usually said to have been coined by the German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller in 1507, from the name of the Italian explorer and cartographer Amerigo Vespucci. Amerigo is a variant of Enrico (see Henry). However, it is possible that it actually derives from the Amerrique Mountains in Nicaragua, which were rich in gold and are believed to have been visited by Vespucci and Columbus. A further hypothesis is that it derives from the name of Richard Amerike or Ameryk

(c. 1445-1503), who was the main owner of the ship John Cabot used during his 1497 exploration of North America. Some scholars believe that Waldseemüller based his map on one made by Cabot—now lost—and that Cabot had named America in honor of Amerigo. Amerigo's surname is an Anglicized form of the Welsh "ap Meurig" meaning "son of MEURIG." 18th C. Bearers: America Ferrera (b. 1984), the American actress.

Amery c~ The usual English form of ALMERIC. In use since the Middle Ages, it gave rise to many surnames; as well as Amery itself, a number have also been taken up as given names, notably Amory, Emerick, EMERY, Emory, and EMERSON.

Amesha c2 Meaning "immortal" in Old Persian, the Amesha Spenta is the Zoroastrian equivalent of a God or Goddess, specifically one of the six "Divine Sparks" of Ahura Mazda (see Aramazd). Many are now regarded as angels by Iranian Muslims. Very similar is the Indian girl's name Amisha (also written Ameesha), which may derive from the Sanskrit: amisa "prey," "meat," and "non-vegetarian."

Amethyst Y Amethyst is a healing and purifying stone, which is believed to calm and protect. Its tranquil properties help to reduce negativity and alleviate anxiety. Gr: amethystos "not drunken," as in ancient times it was believed that it would prevent intoxication. 19th C.

Ametrine 2 An unusual crystal, combining amethyst and citrine—the name is also a hybrid of the two. Ametrine is also known as trystine and Bolivianite. It is considered to be a powerful stone for healing, being cleansing and reinvigorating. It is also said to be good at protection against psychic attack and other forms of negativity.

Amfrid c Old German—ano "ancestor" + frithu "peace."

Amias c~ The origin of Amias is unclear. It may have developed from the Medieval French Aime (later Aime) < Fr: aimer "to like," "to love," or

Amis-another medieval name-itself from the Medieval Latin Amisius (see Amicia). The name has been in use since the Middle Ages.'The long obsolete word "amias" is a medieval form of AMETHYST. Var: Amyas. Bearers: Amyas, a "squire of low degree" in Spenser's Faerie Queene; Amyas Leigh, the principal character in Charles Kingsley's Westward Ho! (1855).

Amica Y Latin: amica "(female) friend." Epithet of Venus.

Amice Y Usual Anglicized form of AMICIA. It was a fairly popular name in the Middle Ages, and it was probably Amice rather than Amy that gave rise to surnames such as Amis and Aymes. An "amice" is an oblong of white cloth worn over the shoulders of Roman Catholic priests, but it is not etymologically related to the name. Var: Amys.

Amicia Y The exact origins of Amicia are uncertain, but it is tempting to derive it, as most do, from L: amicus "a friend." An obscure saint of the name is venerated in one small town in Brittany. Amicia appears frequently in medieval records, though the girls who bore the name were probably called AMICE. In botany, Amicia is the name of a Mexican plant with heart-shaped leaves and racemes of yellow flowers. Var: Amisia (hist)-which is also the ancient name of the River Ems in Germany.

Amicus Latin: amicus "(male) friend." Borne by an eleventh-century saint of the name. 19th C.

Amik c Ojibwe: amik "beaver."

Amina Y Amina was the name of the mother of the prophet Mohammed. Ar: `amin "honest" and "faithful." Masc: Amin.

Amini 2 Swahili: amini "fidelity," "devotion," and "reliability."

Aminta Y his name first seems to have appeared in Torquato Tasso's play Aminta (1573), in which Aminta is actually a man.'The name is an

Italianized form of the Ancient Greek name Amyntas < amunt&r "defender." It appears as a girl's name in a poem of 1701, probably written by Anne Finch, and has been in use as a girl's name since. Lord Ormont and his Aminta (1894) is a novel by George Meredith.

Amintor c~ Variant of the Ancient Greek name Amyntor. Gr: amunt&r "defender." Amintor has mostly appeared in literature, such as a character in Beaumont and Fletcher's play The Maid's Tragedy (c. 1608-11), and Isaac Bickerstaffe's comic opera Daphne and Amintor (1765).

Amir c~ Arabic name- kmir "prince." Fem: Amira.

Amit e Y Indian name. San: amita "boundless," "immeasurable," and "infinite." One of the one hundred and eight names of the Hindu God Ganesha. Fem: Amita.

Amitabh c~ Indian name. Sanskrit: amitabha "infinite light" and "of immeasurable splendor." Amitabha is the name of a celestial Buddha in the Mahayana school of Buddhism.

Amity ? English: amity "friendship" < L: amicitia "friendship < amicus "friend." One of many abstract nouns adopted by Puritans in the sixteenth century. Var: Amita, Amytie, Amitie (hist).

Amlawdd G~ The father of Igraine, and therefore the grandfather of King Arthur. He is also known in Welsh as Amlawdd Wledig, meaning Amlawdd "the Emperor." W: intensifying prefix an-lam- + llawdd "praise." Var: Amlodd.

Ammonite c~ Y The name of a species of extinct marine animals famous as fossils. It derives from Ammon, the Greek form of the Egyptian AMUN-a God who is sometimes depicted with ram's horns. Iridescent forms are considered gems, regarded as stones of protection and mental clarity.

Amor Y c~ Latin: amor "love," and its personification, synonymous with Cupid. 16th C.

Amorn 2 'Mai name-amon "immortal," "living forever"; "an immortal."

Amos c~ Biblical name of uncertain meaning. Heb: "carried"-by (a) God being understood-or perhaps "courageous" or "strong."The surname Amos derives from AMICE. 16th C.

Amphelisia Y An unusual medieval name.The traditional etymology is Gr: amphilalos "talking in two languages," but this is very unlikely. In reality, it may have arisen as a variant of FELICIA, perhaps having somehow acquired the Welsh intensifying prefix an-. Another option from Ancient Greek is amphielissa "swaying to and fro" and "rolling," used mostly of ships. Might the first Amphelisia have been born on a stormy sea? Perhaps. Var: Amphelice, Amflisa, Amphyllis.

Amphion c~ Amphion and his brother Zethus were the twin sons of Zeus by Antiope, and were said to have built the walls of the Greek Thebes. Gr: amphiennumi "to put round," presumably referring to the walls.

Amphitrite Y Greek Goddess of the sea and consort of Poseidon. Her name is usually thought to derive from Gr: amphi "around" or "on both sides" + tritos "third"-i.e. "the third (one) who encircles (the sea).""This smacks of the typical Ancient Greek practice of Hellenizing unfamiliar names and giving them meaning in Greek, even if that meaning is garbled. It is rather more likely that Amphitrite is a preGreek sea Goddess adopted into the Greek pantheon.

Amranwen ? Welsh: amrant "eyelid" + gwyn. It is also the Welsh name for German chamomile. 20th C.

Amrit c Sanskrit: amrta "immortal," "imperishable." Amrta is regarded among Hindus as the drink of the Gods the equivalent of the Greek nectar.

In yogic philosophy, it is said to be a fluid which flows down the throat in deep meditation. Fem: Amrita.

Amsel Y A traditional name for the blackbird, still used in Germany. It is ultimately connected with MERULA, the Latin name for the bird, through the variant mesula.

Amu a' Mi'kmaq: amu "bee."

Amulet ? c' A protective charm. L: amuletum "amulet." Possibly < Ar: himalah "carrier" or "bearer." 20th C.

Amun c?' The Egyptian God. In early texts, he is clearly a God of creative force, the essential and the hidden. He is paired with the Goddess Amunet, and together they represent the male and female aspects of the air. Later, he became a ram-headed fertility God, identified with Ra the God of the sun, and became Amun-Ra. Egyptian: jmn "to hide," or jmn "to constitute," "to establish," "to mold." Var: Ammon, Amoun, Hammon.

Amunet 2 Female aspect of AMUN, a Goddess of the air and invisibility. She is sometimes depicted as a cobra, a snake-headed woman or a woman with a hawk or an ostrich feather on her head, and sometimes winged. Her association with the Goddess Iusaaset-the "Grandmother of the Gods"-led to her being dubbed the "Mother of Creation." She possesses the tree of life, from which all life comes and returns. She is also associated with the moon. 20th C.

Amy Y Introduced from France in the thirteenth century. The Medieval French form was Amee "beloved." Var: Aimie, Ayme, Amya, Amia, AMATA (hist); Aimee. Fr: Aimee. Bearers: Amy Robsart (1532-60), the ill-fated wife of Queen Elizabeth's favorite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; Amy Johnson (1903-41), the American aviatrix; Amy Winehouse (1983-2011), the English singer-songwriter; Amy Dorrit, the central character in

Charles Dickens's *Little Dorrit* (1855-57); Amy March, one of the four sisters of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* (1868-69).

Amyitis Y The name of two Babylonian women.'The first was the wife of King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon, for whom the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were said to have been built.'The second was the daughter of the Persian King Xerxes I. The name is the Greek form of a Persian name of uncertain origin; a possibility is Avestan: humaiti < hu "good," "well," and "beautiful" + -maiti- "thought" and "opinion" < man "to know" and "to think." Var: Amytis.

Anacreon c' A sixth-century BCE Greek poet who wrote in praise of love and wine; to this day "Anacreontic" means "convivial" and "amatory." Gr: ana "king" + kreion "ruling," "ruler," and "king."

Anahi Y South American name, used in the ESW since the late twentieth century. In Tupi-Guarani legend, it is the name of a princess killed by Spanish conquistadors who was turned into a flower-usually identified with the flower of the Ceibo tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*). Its exact meaning is uncertain; anahi is one form of the word for maize in Carib, related to the Tupi word for maize-awati. 'The name's resemblance to Anahita (see Anaitis) is likely to be coincidental, although some like to derive it from this source. Influence from the related Anais is perhaps more likely.

Anais Y French form of ANAITIS, and probably the most familiar form of the name at present.'The very similar looking Annais, however, was also a medieval variant of AGNES. Bearers: Anais Nin (1903-77), the French-born Cuban-American diarist. Anais Anais is the name of a perfume introduced by Cacharel in 1978.

Anaitis Y Hellenized form of Anahita, the name of an Ancient Persian and Zoroastrian Goddess. Anahita derives from the Avestan for "pure" or "immaculate." It was originally an epithet of more than one deity, but became particularly associated with a Goddess called Aredvi Sura Anahita-

essentially Anahita's original "full" name. A Goddess of water (often referred to in Zoroastrianism as "the Waters," encompassing every manifestation of water), she is also a Goddess of fertility. Her cult spread and flourished across the eastern Mediterranean in ancient times. The Greeks identified her with both Artemis and Aphrodite. She is also identified with the Hindu Goddess Annapurna. Intriguingly, there is a prehistoric mound on the Isle of Skye called The Temple of Anaitis, not far from Fairy Bridge. In Gaelic, its name is Tempuill--na Annait, and it is also known as the Temple of Annait, or simply Annait. Annait and Annat are found as place names all over Scotland, usually near standing stones. It is possible that the Greek Anaitis was adopted to render the Scottish Annait, which almost certainly derives from Sc Ga: an "water" or ann "circle," and may be linked to the Celtic Goddess Ann. Var: Anait, Tanata, TANAIS.

Analia Y Spanish name. Its origin isn't entirely clear; it may be a combination of Ana and Lia-Spanish forms of ANN and LEAH. Alternatively, it may have arisen as a short form of Analucia, itself a combination of Ana and LUCIA.

Anan c~ 'Thai name-anan "countless," "boundless," "infinite," and "everlasting."

Ananda a Y Old Indian name. San: aanda "happiness," "delight," "joy," and "pleasure." Ananada was the name of one of the principal disciples and devotees of the Buddha. The usual modern boy's version is Anand, with Ananda now usually reserved for girls.

Ananias d' Greek form of Hebrew Hananiah: "Yahweh is gracious" (thus closely related to HANNAH). 16th C. Bearers: Ananias Dare (fl. 1592), father of the legendary Virginia.

Ananke 2 Greek: anagke "necessity." "The personification of necessity and fate. By Zeus, she was the mother of the Fates. Var: Ananka.

Anarawd c? Old Welsh name-intensifying prefix an+ arawd "praise" or "prayer." Anarawd ap Rhodri (d. 916) was referred to as "King of the Britons" in the Annals of Wales. Revived 19th C.

Anassa 2 Greek: anassa "queen" and "lady"-used as a term of address for Goddesses.

Anastasia y Greek: anastasis "resurrection." It was a popular name in the Eastern Roman Empire, and was the name of a fourth-century saint, mostly venerated in the Orthodox Church. It has been used in the ESW since medieval times, though often in vernacular forms such as Anstice and Anstey. Var: Anastacia. Dim: Stacey, Stacie (mod). Bearers: Grand Duchess Anastasia (1901-18), the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicolas II.

Anat Y Semitic Goddess of war, fertility, sexual love and hunting. She was worshipped across the Near and Middle East, including Egypt, though the centre of her cult was Ugarit. The etymology is uncertain; it has sometimes been linked to ANAITIS, but the resemblance between the two names is probably coincidental. A more plausible source is the Akkadian Antu; this is the feminine form of ANU, and the name of his consort. The two Goddesses were equated in Antiquity, and although they possess few attributes in common, Anat does share her warlike persona with the Mesopotamian Goddess ANUNIT, who is also treated as one and the same as Antu by many. Anat is used as a girl's name in contemporary Israel. Var: Anath, Anata, Anatu, Anta, Anit (hist).

Anatole c? French form of Anatolius, the Latin form of Greek Anatolios. Gr: anatole "rising"-used specifically of any heavenly body above the horizon. There is more than one early saint of the name. Ru: Anatoli, Anatoliy, Anatoly.

Anaxandra Y Anaxandra was a celebrated Greek female painter of the third century BCE. Her name is the feminine form of Anaxander-Gr: anax "lord" + aner "man," i.e. "lord of men."

Anaxibia Y A number of characters in Greek mythology, including the mother of Alcestis and the sister of Agamemnon. Gr: anaxios "kingly" and "royal" + bias "life."

Anaya 2 Probably arising as a variant of ANIA or ANYA, or simply an elaboration of ANNA, Anaya's use may be influenced by one of two Spanish towns called Anaya, and the surname taken from them. Late 20th C.

Ancel (' Diminutive of OG: ansu "(a) God." It was introduced into Britain by the Normans, but was early confused with ANSELM.

Ancelina Y Feminine form of ANCEL, used as a given name since the Middle Ages. Largely used by the Romani in recent centuries. Var: Anselina.

Anchises The father of the Trojan hero Aeneas. His greatest claim to fame is being the erstwhile lover of Aphrodite, with whom he fathered Aeneas. Possibly Gr: agkhi near.

Anchitel c' Variant of ASKETIL used from the seventeenth century. Bearers: Anchitel Grey (c. 1624-1702), the prolific English diarist.

Anchor ? c~ The anchor has long held considerable symbolic meaning. In the ancient world, it stood for safety and stability. It was adopted by Christians as early as the first century as a symbol of hope, specifically regarding resurrection. As such, it is frequently found on gravestones. The English word derives from L: Ancora < Gr: agkura "anchor"; the stem agk- in Greek means "crooked" or "bent." The surname derives from Anchier, an Old French form of ANSGAR, which was introduced by the Normans. 17th C.

Anchoret 2 A medieval name, Anchoret is almost certainly an Anglicized form of ANGHARAD. In the past, it was sometimes derived from English

anchorite "hermt," but this is unlikely as the name is recorded far earlier than the noun. Var: Ancret, Ancarett, Ankeret, Ancoretta, Ancharita.

Anchusa 2 Botanical name for a family of plants including borage, bugloss, and blue alkanet. It is taken directly from the Latin for ALKANET < Gr: agkhousa. The origins of this are uncertain; it may be from egkheo "to pour in" and "to infuse."

Andante 2 A Brythonic Goddess, whose name only occurs once in a passage of the Roman writer Cassius Dio. He describes Andante as "their (the Iceni) name for Victory," but there is no evidence that this is true. It is quite possible that Andante and ANDRASTE, mentioned in the

same work, are one and the same. The meaning of Andante is very uncertain-it may be too mangled by Dio to decipher accurately. CC: *an(de)- is an intensifying prefix found in a number of names and is likely to be the first element, but little can be said with any certainty beyond that.

Andarta ? A Goddess known from inscriptions in Berne and the south of France, Andarta was a fertility Goddess and may have been a counterpart or aspect of Attis, and some scholars believe she may also be connected to the Brythonic Goddess ANDRASTE. CC: intensifying prefix *an(de)- + *arto- "bear."

Andeg cc y Algonquin: andeg "crow."

Anderson e 2 English surname, "son of ANDREW." 16th C.

Andraste y A Celtic war Goddess invoked by Boudicca. It is possible she is the same as ANDANTE and ANDARTA. She may also be connected to the Morrigan. Her name seems to derive from CC: *an-drixta- "darkness." It is often said that the hare is sacred to her, though this derives from a misreading of the passage in Cassius Dio in which Boudicca-whose robe

was embroidered with hares-released a hare from the folds of her robe, immediately prior to calling upon Andraste. However, releasing the hare may have been simply a form of divination, and not specifically linked to Andraste. We are unlikely ever to know for certain, unless an answer comes from archaeology.

Andrea Y c' In the ESW (and many places elsewhere), Andrea is the feminine form of Andrew. The exception is Italy, where it IS Andrew. Gr: andreaia "manliness" or "manly" spirit'. 17th C. Dim: Andie; Andi (mod). Cz, Dan, Get, Scand: Andrea, Fr: Andree, Rom: Andreea, Port: Andreia.

Andresila Y A vila in Serbian mythology. Serbian: sila "might" and "mightiness"; the first element is less clear; it may simply be from Andrija, the Serbian form of ANDREW. Alternately, it may be a corruption of andjeo "angel," although interestingly enough andjelak means "demon." Another vila bears the name Andjelija, which is essentially a Serbian form of ANGELINA, and may be the source of the Romani girl's name Andelia.

Andrew cc' English form of Greek Andreas < aner "a man." It was a name used by Pagan Greeks, and later across the Hellenized world of the Near East and Egypt, which included Palestine. It is not known for certain, therefore, whether the disciple of Jesus-the most famous bearer of the name-was really called Andreas, or whether it was used to render a Hebrew name. 11th C. Dim: Dandy (hist); Andy, Andi, DREW. Ger: Andreas, Sc Ga: Aindrea, Jr Ga: Aindreas, Aindriu, Maori: Anaru, Basque: Ander, Scand: Anders, W: Andras, Hun: Andras, Endre, Fr: Andre, It: ANDREA; Bul, Rom, Ru, Ukr: Andrei, Cro, Cz, Slv: Andrej, Sp: Andres, Dut: Andries, Serb: Andrija, Pol: Andrzej, Fin: Antero, Antti, Cz, Slk: Ondiej. Bearers: Andrew Marvell (1621-78), the English poet; American president Andrew Jackson (1767-1845); Andrew, Duke of York (b. 1960). Andrew Aguecheek is a comic character in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

Andrina 2 A feminine form of ANDREW, originating in Scotland in the eighteenth century. It features as the name of a mermaid in Disney's The

Little Mermaid (1989).

Androcles c Greek aner "man" + kleos "glory" and "fame." Androcles is best known for the ancient fable "Androcles and the Lion," which dates to the early first century CE, but is best known through the 1912 play of the name by George Bernard Shaw. In the original ancient version, Androcles was just a slave, not a Christian. Var: Androclus.

Andromache ? The name of the tragic wife of the Trojan Hector. Gr: aner "a man" + macho "battle." She makes an appearance in Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida, and was the subject of a play by Euripides (c. 428-425 BCE) and by Racine-Andromaque (1667). Late 16th C.

Andromeda 2 The daughter of Cepheus and Cassiopeia, she was rescued from the sea monster Cetus by Perseus, who married her. After her death, she was placed among the stars as the constellation which bears her name. Gr: aner "man" + medomai "to advise"-i.e. "advising like a man." Women in Ancient Greece had little status and were treated as chattels, and comparison to men could be complimentary or condemnatory, depending on the context. As Andromeda is a fairly conventional Greek woman (apart from the sea monster business, which was hardly her fault), it is probably safe to assume that in her case, it was complimentary. 19th C.

Anedd Y Old Welsh name; the wife of Owain ap Gruffydd, King of Gwynedd (c. 1100-70). Possibly related to Welsh: annedd "dwelling."

Aneira Y Welsh: intensifying prefix an- + eira "snow." Probably inspired by Aneirin. Early 20th C. A similar name is Aneirwen: Aneira + gwyn.

Aneirin cc Old Welsh name, borne by a sixth-century bard, who was also known as Neirin. His work, including the important YGododdin, is preserved in a thirteenth-century manuscript called The Book of Aneirin. The origins of his name possibly lie with the Latin HONORIUS. The later variant Aneurin presumably came about through attempts to derive the

name from Welsh: an- "all" + our "gold." Dim: Nye. Bearers: Aneurin "Nye" Bevan (1897-1960), a key figure in the establishment of the British National Health Service.

Anemone 2 A species of pretty flowering plants, as well as sea anemones. Gr: anemos "wind"; the English name of the anemone is windflower. In Greek mythology, Aphrodite transforms the blood of her dead lover Adonis into the anemone. Late 19th C.

Aneth a' Y Cornish: aneth "marvel" and "wonder."

Angel a' 2 Greek: aggelos "messenger." Used to translate Heb: mal'ak yehowah "messenger of Yahweh."The concept of angels, however, is not unique to the Judeo-Christian religions.'There are angelic-like beings in Buddhism, Hinduism, Norse, Celtic, Greek, and Roman mythology, and "angel" has become a convenient term for any celestial beings who help corporeal beings, regardless of the divinity from which they emanate. 16th C. Angel used to be regarded as a man's name, but has from time to time been used as a variant of ANGELA. Cz: Andel, Sp: Angel, Cat: Angel, It: Angelo. Bearers: Angel Clare of Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles (1891); Angel, a major character in the American television drama Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1997-2003) and central character of its spin-off show Angel (1999-2004).

Angela Y Feminine form of ANGEL. It was possibly used in Britain the Middle Ages-as it was elsewhere in Europe-for children born on the feast of St. Michael and All Saints (September 29), but most use dates from the sixteenth century. Dim: Angie, Ange. Cz: Andela, Serb: Andjela, Dut, Ger, It, Rom, Slk: Angela, Port: Angela, Angelita (dim), Fr: Angele, Pol: Aniela.

Angelica 2 The first example of Angelica as a given name is found in Matteo Maria Boiardo's Orlando Innamorato in which Angelica is the name of the hero Orlando's beloved. Their story was continued by Ludovico Ariosto in Orlando Furioso. L: angelicus "belonging to angels." Angelica,

also known as archangel, is also the name of an important herb, known for its many healing qualities effective in the treatment of coughs, colds, fevers, colic, and other problems of the digestive system. The crystallized young stems are a familiar cake decoration and the roots and seeds are also used as flavoring, most famously in the liqueur Chartreuse. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, a full-grown Angelica is an impressive sight, with huge, globe-shaped blooms. Magically, it is still used for protection and healing. 16th C. Ger: Angelica, Fr: Angelique. Bearers: Angelica Kauffmann (1741-1807), the Swiss-born artist.

Angelina Y Feminine diminutive of ANGEL. Anna Komnena Angelina, Eudokia Angelina, and Eirene Angelina were the three daughters of the Byzantine emperor Alexios III Angelos (c. 1153-1211), while the fifteenth-century Angelina of Serbia is venerated in the Orthodox Church. Used in the ESW since the sixteenth century. Fr: Angeline. Bearers: Angelina Grimke (1805-79), the American abolitionist and suffragist; Angelina Weld Grimke (1880-1958), niece of the former and well-known African-American journalist, playwright, and poet; Angelina Jolie (b. 1975), the American actress. Angelina Ballerina is the ballet-dancing mouse heroine of Katharine Holabird and Helen Craig's series of children's book, first published in 1982.

Anger a' Y As a given name, Anger first appears in the seventeenth century as an adoption of the surname, which evolved from ANSGAR. Anger is also one of the Anglicized forms of ELUNED. The word anger derives from ON: angr "trouble" and "affliction."

Angharad 2 Old Welsh name-intensifying prefix an- + car "love." A Brythonic male form of the name Andecarus, appears on a writing tablet found at Vindolanda dating to the late first or early second century CE, testifying to the name's great age. It was popular in Medieval Wales, being borne by a number of members of Welsh princely houses, such as Angharad ferch Owain, the daughter of Owain ap Gruffydd, King of Gwynedd (c. 1100-1170), and it is one of a handful of Welsh names which has survived more or less in continual use to the present day, even passing into English in the form ANCHORET. Bearers: Angharad, Peredur's beloved in the Mabinogion; Angharad, daughter of Rhydderch Hael (d. c. 614 CE), who appears in the Welsh Triads.

Angus cc Scottish and Irish name < Gaelic Aonghas. Probably CC: *oyno- "one"+ *gustu- "excellence" and "force." Aong has Og (d. 1490) was the last independent Lord of the Isles. The earlier Gaelic form of the name is Oengus, a name borne by two Pictish kings of the eighth and ninth centuries as well as Oengus mac Nad Froich (d. 489), allegedly the first Christian king of Munster, who was supposedly baptized at Cashel by St. Patrick. In Irish myth, Aengus (also called Oengus, Aengus and Aonghus) is the God of love, youth, and poetic inspiration, and as such believed by

many to be closely connected with the Celtic God Maponus and the Welsh Mahon. He is the son of the Dagda and Boann and is associated with Newgrange. Another variant is the semiAnglicized Anguish, borne by an Irish king in the Arthurian Romances-the father of Iseult of Tristan and Iseult fame. Angus is also the name of a Scottish county-known as Forfarshire from the eighteenth century, until 1928. It gave its name to the breed of cattle.

Ania Y Greek: ania "sorrow." Personified by the Greeks as a Goddess of sorrow. Ania is also the name of a type of orchid, and is the Polish spelling of ANYA.

Anian c' Old Welsh name. In Modern Welsh anian means "nature." It is probable, however, that examples of the name in the Middle Ages represent variant spellings of EINION.

Aniel cc The name of an angel, also called Haniel, who is associated with the planet Venus. Probably Heb: "joy of (a) God." 17th C. Used particularly among the Romani, although ANIL may be the source of this Aniel.'The French Anael and Anaëlle (Y) may also be from Aniel.

Anil cc Indian name. San: anila "air" or "wind." Anila is one of the Hindu Vasus-deities of the natural world, who wait upon Vishnu-and are equated with Vayu. Fem: Anila.

Anima y Latin: anima "air" and "wind." Another meaning was "breath," and it later took on the sense of the "breath of life." Later, it acquired the meaning "soul." Anima is also an Indian name. San: animan "infinite smallness"-understood as being as small as an atom. It is the first of the eight siddhis-i.e. the development through meditation of the soul's innate powers. 19th C.

Anisa 2 Arabic name- anis "friendly," "affable," and "gregarious." Var: Anissa. Masc: Anis.

Anise 2 The spice Anise has been used since ancient times. In the Roman period it was used as a remedy for sleeplessness.'The oil is used to make aniseed balls, a sweet found in Britain, Australia and New Zealand. In the

Middle East, a tea is made with the seeds. It is also a flavoring in a number of alcoholic beverages, most notably the French pastis and Greek ouzo. Star Anise (which is pronounced "a-NEEZ") is an Asian spice much used in Chinese cookery and medicine. Anise is ruled by Jupiter and Air, and is used magically for purification and protection; placed under a pillow, anise seeds will drive away bad dreams. L: anisum < Gr: aneson and anethon "dill." As given names, Anise was originally a medieval form of AGNES. 16th C.

Anita Y Spanish pet-form of ANNA, used in the ESW from the nineteenth century. In Sanskrit, anita means "destitute of," while anita means "dowry."

Anjali Y Indian name. San: anjali-a word to describe the gesture of "joining the palms of the hand" used in Hindu devotions, and usually translated as "divine offering." The root anj- means "to honor" or "celebrate" as well as "anoint." Anjali Mudra is the name given to the familiar hand gesture used as a greeting amongst Buddhists and Hindus. Anjali was used by M.M. Kaye for the name of the heroine of The Far Pavillions (1978).

Anjana 2 The mother of the Hindu God Hanuman. It is also the name of a mountain. San: anjana "unguent" and "magical ointment."

Ankh (? Egyptian: anx "eternal life"- specifically used of the hieroglyphic character. Egyptian Gods are often depicted carrying it as a symbol of their divinity. Its origin remains a matter of debate. It has been argued by some that the ankh is a symbol of male and female united, the "male triad and female unit" as a Victorian Egyptologist delicately put it. Others have suggested that it represents either the belt buckle or sandal strap of the Goddess Isis. It was used as a given name in Ancient Egypt, and has started to be bestowed again in recent years.

Ann, Anne Y Ann is normally treated as a development from the Hebrew HANNAH. It came into use in Britain in the Middle Ages, but was little used prior to the fourteenth century, when the cult of St. Anne began to take hold. Its popularity grew rapidly, so that by the sixteenth century, Ann-the traditional English spelling-had become one of the most common given names. St. Anne is regarded by Roman Catholics as the mother of the

Virgin Mary, though all references to her are apocryphal. Within the Pagan community, there has been a strong desire among some to link

St. Anne with the Goddess ANU, seeing a parallel of the Christianization of the Goddess Brigid into St. Bridget. While this is probably true of the little known Irish St. Ana, the veneration of St. Anne herself was comparatively late, and it wasn't until 1545 that her cult gained official status in the Catholic Church. It seems more likely, therefore, that if vestiges of the worship of Ann were preserved in a Christian saint, it was in the cult of St. Agnes. Var: ANNA. Dim: ANNIE, NAN, Nanny, NANCY. Cro, Port, Rom, Serb, Sp: Ana, Bul, Cz, Dut, Est, Fin, Ice, It, Hun, Pol, Ru, Scand: Anna, Dut, Fr, Ger, Scand: Anne. While there is little variation in the forms Ann takes around the world, there are numerous diminutives, many of which have come into use as independent names in the ESW since the late nineteenth century-Rom: Anca, Pol, Hun: Anka, Ger, Scand: Anke, Annika, Anneka, Fr: Annette, NANETTE, NINON; Anaelle (mod), Fin: Anniina, Niina, Ru: Anoushka, Anouska, Annushka, ANYA, Dut: Antje, Hun: Nusi. Bearers: Anne Boleyn (c. 1507-36), the ill-fated Queen of Henry VIII, who was accused of Witchcraft- though not formally charged with it; Ann Glover (d. 1688), the last person executed for Witchcraft in Boston, Massachusetts; Ann Pudeator (c. 1720-92), just one of the victims named Ann who was accused during the Salem Witch trials; Anne Palles (1619-93), the last person executed for Witchcraft in Denmark (although women continued to be lynched and murdered there throughout the eighteenth century); Anne Frank (1929-45), the Dutch child diarist, whose journal is one of the most vivid and personal accounts demonstrating the impact of prejudice and persecution on ordinary lives; Ann Moura (b. 1947), the Witch and author, known for her books on Green Witchcraft.

Anna y Usually considered the Latin form of ANN, Anna is the form used in most European languages. The name Anna, however, was familiar to Pagan Romans as the name of a native Goddess-Anna Perenna.'The poet Ovid identified her with Anna, the sister of the Carthaginian queen Dido, who featured in Virgil's famous Aeneid-but this is unlikely. Anna Perenna is a Goddess of plenty who presided over the Wheel of the Year; her surname in Roman times was believed to derive from L: perennis "through the year," and Anna was generally believed to derive from annus "circuit"

and "year." Intriguingly, however, there is a Hindu Goddess of grain called Annapurna. She is an aspect of Parvati, and in Sanskrit annapurna means "filled with food." It is possible this is just a coincidence, but equally possible-given the fact that Latin and Sanskrit are both Indo-European languages with a common source-that the two are genuinely connected. Anna Perenna's identification with the year may be due to mistaken etymology on the part of the Romans themselves, long after the name's original meaning had been forgotten. Anna frequently occurs in Latin records in Britain from the medieval period, though most of the people so named would have been called Ann. From the sixteenth century, it began to be used as a name in its own right. By the eighteenth century, it was often found in combinations, particularly Anna Maria, which was sometimes written Annamaria. To Catholics, this honored St. Mary and St. Anne (the French version Anne-Marie is also in use), but to supporters of the Glorious (Protestant) Revolution of 1688, it honored James II's Protestant daughters Mary and Anne, who were both to be queen. Anna was also sometimes used as an alternative name for Morgause in medieval literature. Bearers: Anna Comnena (1083-1153), the learned Byzantine princess and writer; Anna Phersonernas moder (d. 1568), the notorious mother of Swedish statesman Joran Persson, who wielded considerable power over her son and Swedish affairs of state, and was widely believed to be a Witch; Anna Goldi (1734- 82), a Swiss woman, is considered by many to be the last person formally executed for Witchcraft in Europe; Anna Franklin (b. 1955), the English writer and High Priestess of the Hearth of Arianrhod.

Annabel Y Scottish name of obscure origins. Its use dates to at least the twelfth century. A plausible explanation is that the name began as a variant of AMABEL, though some contend that it developed as a deliberate elaboration of ANN + Fr: belle "beautiful." However, this seems unlikely, as not only was Ann a rarity in Britain when Annabel was first recorded, but there were few names ending in -bel(la); Isabella had yet to become established and the only others really about were Amabel and Arabella-that other Scottish curio. It is much more tempting to suggest it actually has a Celtic source. The intensifying prefix an- from CC: *andestill features in a number of Welsh names (such as Angharad), and -bel could be a survival of CC: *bel(l)- "strong" and "powerful," which was also a common element in Brythonic names. Var: Annapple (hist); Annabella, Annabelle. "Annabel

Lee" (1849) is a poem written by Edgar Allan Poe, and was probably responsible for the spread of Annabel outside Scotland in the nineteenth century.

Annan e Y The River Annan flows through Dumfries and Galloway, and gives its name to Annandale, as well as the towns of Annan and Annanhead. It has strong links to Robert the Bruce, whose family owned much of the land

in the area. Its etymology is possibly cognate with 01: en "water" < CC: *feno- "swamp" and "moor."

Annet Y Medieval diminutive of AGNES. In Northumberland, this is a local name for the common gull, which, despite its name, isn't actually very common. Elsewhere it is a name for the kittiwake.

Annie Y Pet-form of ANN, well-established as a name in its own right by the end of the nineteenth century. Var: Anni (mod). Bearers: Annie Oakley (1860-1926), the American exhibition shooter famous for performing with Buffalo Bill, whose story was immortalized in the 1946 musical *Annie Get Your Gun*; Annie Besant (1847-1933), a British Theosophist, feminist, and socialist. The 1977 stage musical *Annie* and the subsequent film of 1981 were based on the Little Orphan Annie cartoon strip (1924-).

Annis 2 Medieval variant of AGNES. Black Annis-also known as Black Agnes-is a controversial figure in Pagan circles, with many arguing that she represents a survival of the Pagan Goddess Ann. Others say that she represents a historical figure called Agnes Scott, a late medieval hermit who lived in the Dane Hills. There is, of course, no reason why there might be truth in both, as Black Annis hardly fits the stereotype of a pious recluse! Depicted as an old woman, she has a liking for human flesh (particularly children's) and lives in a cave with an oak tree at its entrance. Anis-found also as a medieval variant-became a Romani name. Var: Annys, Annice.

Annot y Medieval pet-form of AGNES, often used independently. It survived until the nineteenth century.

Annwn ' Y The name of the Otherworld in Welsh mythology, ruled by Arawn. The implication made by medieval Welsh literature is that it had the meaning "very deep," and it almost certainly derives from CC: intensifying prefix *ande + *dubnos "deep" or "world"- i.e. "very deep." It is probably cognate with Gaulish: antumnos, found on a curse tablet. Annwn is a central concept in modern Druidry; it is the place where all life begins, the cauldron of rebirth-and is often referred to as the "Cauldron of Annwn." Late 20th C. Var: Annwfn.

Annwyl y Welsh: annwyl "dear" and "beloved." 20th C.

Anona Y Modern Welsh variant of NONA. Very similar is the Latin Annona, a Goddess who personified the year's produce; L: annona "year's produce" < annus "year." Anona is also the name of a genus of tropical plants, which includes the custard apple.

Anselm cc' Old German name-ansu "a God" + helma "helmet." Anselm was introduced into Britain by the Normans, but died out during the Middle Ages. It is still used in Germany.

Ansgar a' Old German name-ansu "a God" + ger "spear," cognate with the Old Norse Asgeirr. The Normans took it to Britain in the form Angier, which gave rise to the surname ANGER, among others. Ansgar was the name of a ninth-century saint and missionary. Revived in Germany and Scandinavia in the nineteenth century. Var: Anscar. Dan: Asger. See also Anchor.

Anshar a' Akkadian sky God. Sumerian an "sky" + sar "all" and "totally." He was the husband of his sister Kishar, Goddess of the Earth. In later centuries the Assyrians identified him with Ashur. Var: Anshur.

Antar c? Usual Anglicized form of the Arabic name Antarah, used for the sixth-century pre-Islamic adventurer and poet Antara ibn Shaddad. The son of a king by a black slave, Antar's love poetry for Abla is particularly celebrated. Rimsky-Korsakov's Antar (1868) was based on the legend. The derivation is unknown.

Antares e Traditional name of Alpha Scorpii, a red supergiant star in the Milky Way. Gr: anti "against" + ARES-the name of the Greek God of war, equivalent of the Roman Mars. It refers to the fact that the star Antares is a rival to Mars for the title of the reddest object in the sky. Also known as Cor Scorpii-the Scorpion's heart. Ancient Chinese documents called it "the Fire Star." Some temples of Ancient Egypt were orientated towards Antares, testimony to its significance. In Persian astronomy, Antares is considered the dominant star of the autumnal equinox-the "Watcher of the West."

Anthea 2 Greek: antheios "flowery." Anthea is an epithet of Hera. It was adopted by pastoral poets, such as Robert Herrick in the seventeenth century, and has been in use as a given name since that time. Anthea featured as the name of one of the children in Edith Nesbit's Five Children and It (1902).

Anthion c? Epithet of Dionysus. St. Anthion is an obscure saint in the Orthodox Church, whose roots may lie with the God. Gr: anthios "of the flowers"; anthion was also a poetic word for "the spring."

Anthony cc The gens Antonia arose to prominence in Ancient Rome in the first century BCE, its most famous member being Marcus Antonius, better known in the ESW as Mark Antony. As a result of the power and influence of this family, Antonius became a common name during the Roman Empire, and was borne by numerous saints, who in turn led to the name's popularity in the Middle Ages. The most prominent of these is St. Antony the Great, said to have been an Egyptian ascetic of the third century. He is much associated with the healing of skin complaints, especially St. Anthony's fire, and numerous healing wells are now dedicated to him. The ultimate origin of the name is uncertain; in ancient times, the family were said to descend from Anton, a son of Hercules. However, it is more likely to be connected simply with the town of Antium in Latium, or L: ante "before"-perhaps originally referring to a premature child. The more correct spelling is Antony; the "h" came in during the seventeenth century through attempts to derive the name from Gr: anthos "a flower." Anthony gradually became the more usual English spelling. In Britain, it is usually pronounced "AN-tan-ee," while in America, "AN-than-ee" is the norm. Dim: TONY,

Ant. Bulgarian, Dutch German, Romanian, Russian and Ukrainian: Anton, Haw: Anakoni, W: Anhun, Hun: Antal, Fr: Antoine, Cat, Pol: Antoni, Dut: Antonie, It, Port, Sp: Antonio, Fin: Anttoni; Toni (dim). Bearers: Anthony Quinn (1915-2001), the Mexican-born actor; Sir Anthony Hopkins (b. 1937), the Welsh actor.

Antigone ? Oedipus's loyal, courageous, but ill-fated daughter-by his own mother. She was immortalized by Sophocles in his play Antigone (c. 442 BCE). Her name can be interpreted in various ways; usually the meaning is manipulated to pass comment on the incestuous nature of her conception. However, it can be interpreted far more neutrally; anti has a range of meanings including "against," "opposite," "facing," "instead of," and even "in return for" or "in the place of," and it is a common element in Greek names, by no means limited to Antigone. The second element could be interpreted as a direct adoption of the word gone or the feminine form of gonos, both carrying more or less the same meanings of "offspring," "child," "family," "parentage," and "child -birth." Thus, the name could well be said to mean "in the place of a child"-i.e. one who has died- which may well have been the name's intended sense. Dim: ANNIE, TIGGY.

Antimony Y e A chemical element, known since ancient times. In a compound form, it used to be a chief ingredient in kohl, used as a cosmetic since the days of Ancient Egypt. Antimony was also much used by alchemists; tradition has it that the alchemist Geber was the first to isolate pure antimony in the eighth century. The popular etymology is from the Byzantine Greek: anti "against" + monakhos "monk," i.e. "the monk-killer." This was not because it was used as a poison for killing monks, but because many monks were alchemists-and antimony is highly poisonous. It is quite likely, however, that the name is not of Greek origin at all. The most likely candidate is Ar: al-uthmud < Gr: stimmi "powdered antimony" < Egyptian msdmt "black eyeshadow." Gr: stimmi is the source of the older word for antimonystibium-which gives antimony its chemical abbreviation: Sb. 20th C.

Antiope Y The name of more than one character in Greek mythology, including the mother of Amphion and Zethus by Zeus, who was the subject of a lost play by Euripides, and an Amazonian queen who was also called

Hippolyta. Gr: anti "against" or "instead of" + opis "vengeance" or "religious devotion," or ops "voice" or "eye."

Antoinette Y French form of ANTONIA, made famous by Queen Marie Antoinette of France (1755-93). Antoinette Cosway is the heroine of Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966), who becomes Bertha Rochester in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* (1847).

Antonia Y Feminine form of ANTHONY. It was borne by a number of prominent women in Ancient Rome, including the mother of the Emperor Claudius, and has been in use since about the sixteenth century. Dim: Toni (mod). Bearers: Antonia Fraser (b. 1932), the English writer and historian.

Anu Y cj As a feminine name, this is a variant form of DANU, and the usual vernacular form in Ireland, which may have influenced the development of the cults of St. Agnes and/or St. Anne. She may also be connected with the later Black Annis of English folklore. She is almost certainly one and the same with the Irish St. Ana-Ana is a variant form of the name of the Goddess-who is venerated on January 18. Var: Anann, Anand. 'The male Anu is the chief God of the Sumerians, whose name means "sky," and whose cult centre was at Erech.

Anubis d The jackal-headed Egyptian God, who conveys the souls of the dead to their judgement in the Underworld. Probably Egyptian:jnp "to decay."

Anukis Y Greek form of Anuket, the name of an Egyptian Goddess worshipped at Elephantine in Egypt with her parents Khnum and Saris. She is considered the personification of the Nile. Egyptian jnqt "she who embraces" < jnq "to embrace," "to encompass," and "to surround." Var: Anqet. 20th C.

Anumati Y Sanskrit: anumati "approbation," "applause," and "approval." Anumati is a Goddess of prosperity, spirituality, and children. She is also a Goddess of the full moon.

Anunit 2 Mesopotamian war Goddess, sometimes treated as an aspect of Ishtar. She is also equated with Antu (see Anat). Anunit was worshipped in

particular at Sippar-Amnanum, a Babylonian city on the River Euphrates. Her name is essentially the feminine form of ANU "sky." It was suggested by the Theosophist Helen Blavatsky that Anunit was the name borne by the planet Venus as the morning star in Babylonian times (Ishtar is the evening star). Var: Annunitum.

Anwen Y Welsh: ANN + gwyn. It is sometimes said to mean "very blessed," treating the first element as the intensifying prefix an- found in a number of traditional Welsh names.

Anwu cc Igbo: anwu "sun."

Anya ? Russian diminutive form of ANNA. In Hungarian, anya means "mother." Used in the ESW from the end of the nineteenth century. Bearers: Anya Seton (1904-90), the American historical novelist. Var: Aniya, Aniyah. Get, Scand, Serb, Slv: Anja, Pol: ANIA.

Anzo c? Old German name. It probably arose as a short form of names beginning with Ans-, such as ANSELM, though it may possibly have been coined directly from ansu "a God."

Aodh c~ Ancient Irish name-aodh "fire." As well as being borne by numerous characters in Irish mythology and early Irish history, it was also borne by an Irish deity-one of the children of Lir turned into swans by Aoife. Var: Aed, Aed.

Aodhnait 2 Irish Gaelic feminine form of AIDAN-aodh "fire" + fem. dim. suffix -nait. It is the name of an early saint. Anglicized as ENA, Enat and Eny. Var: Aednat.

Aoi 2 cc Japanese name-aoi "hollyhocl" or aoi "sea-green."

Aoibheall Y An Irish Goddess. In Irish folklore, she is still said to dwell in the fairy mound of Craig Liath in County Clare. Legend has it that she appeared to Brian Born on the eve of the Battle of Clontarf (1014). It is probably 01: dibell "spar" and "fire." Var: Aibell, Aeval.

Aoibhegreine Y Irish name-aoibh "smile" and "pleasant expression" + Brian "sun." The Middle Irish precursor of aoibh was aeb which carried the meanings of "appearance," "beauty," "attractiveness," "sheen," and by extension "brightness"-hence the reason why the meaning of aoibh is sometimes given as "radiance."

Aoibhinn Y Irish Gaelic: aoibhinn "charming" and "delightful." It was borne by a number of women in early Irish history. Var: Aebfhinn, A.ibhinn, Oebfinn; Aoibheann (mod).

Aoibhnait 2 Old Irish: aoibh "smile" and "pleasant expression" + fem. dim. suffix -nait. Borne by an obscure saint. Var: Aibnat, Aebnat, Oebnat.

Aoife Y Old Irish name of uncertain etymology. A strong possibility is a derivation from CC: *ofi-bf "beauty" and "appearance," from which the later aoibh derives, but an intriguing possibility is a connection with the obscure Gaulish Goddess Esuvia-essentially the feminine form of ESUS. Aoife was the name of a female warrior in the Ulster cycle, as well as the scheming wife of King Lit, who turned his children into swans. A popular name in Ireland in the Middle Ages, it was often Anglicized as EVA, and it survived as such until the revival of the Irish form in the twentieth century.

Aolani 2 Hawaiian name-ao "light," "day," "dawn," "(high) cloud" and "world" + lanī "heaven" and "sky."

Aphaea Y The name of a Goddess worshipped on the island of Aegina in Greece, long identified with Artemis and the Cretan Goddess Britomartis. She is almost certainly a pre-Greek fertility Goddess. Her well-preserved temple on Aegina is an excellent and well-known example of classical-specifically, Doric-architecture. Aphaea is the Latinized form of Greek Aphaia. It is sometimes interpreted as deriving from the Greek a- "without" and "not" and phaios "grey"-but it is more likely, given her associations, that the name has a pre-Greek/non-Greek source; "not grey" is hardly an appropriate name for a Goddess!

Aphra 2 The origin of Aphra is unclear. It is often said to have been taken from the phrase "in the house of Aphrah" from the Bible, with Aphrah interpreted as a name. Certainly, this is behind some examples of Aphra

and Aphrah from the seventeenth century onwards, despite the fact that aphrah means "dust" and isn't a genuine name at all. There is a fair amount of evidence, however, that Aphra was simply the spelling adopted in the seventeenth century of a much older name. The most famous bearer is the female poet, playwright, and spy Aphra Behn (1640-89), whose name originally occurs as Eaffry. This and other variants, such as Effrye, Effery, Efferay, Effray, Affray, and Affery are all found in the medieval period, suggesting that they actually represent a survival of the Old English names ELFREDA, ETHELDRED, IElthryth (cel "all" + kryd "strength"), or IE&lfri43 (cedel "noble" + friJ) "peace"). ALFRED is also found as a girl's name in the early medieval period-being Latinized as ALBREDA-and shouldn't be ruled out as the source either. Bearers: Affery, a character in Dickens's Little Dorrit (1855-57).

Aphrodite ? The Greek Goddess of love needs little introduction. Known to the Romans as Venus, she was identified by the ancients with native Goddesses across the known world, including the Mesopotamian Ishtar, Phoenician Astarte, and Egyptian Harbor. Her association with the Evening and Morning Stars is likewise very ancient. The traditional etymology of her name is Gr: aphros "foam," considered a reference to her birth from the foam of the sea. However, this is likely to represent Greek wishful thinking when the name was Hellenized. Its true origin is likely to be preGreek or to lie in Asia Minor or Mesopotamia. A possible candidate is the Assyrian Bariritu, a Goddess whose name derives from the Akkadian: bararitu "dusk" and "twilight." She is a known manifestation of Ishtar. 19th C.

Apinya Y c~ Thai name-aphinya "magical powers" and "supernatural knowledge."

Apollo c~ One of the principal Gods of the Greek and Roman pantheon, Apollo is God of archery, medicine, the sun, light, music, poetry, and prophecy. He is the twin brother of Artemis and son of Zeus by the Titaness Leto. The meaning of his name is uncertain. The Greek philosopher Plato derived it from Gr: apolusis "redeem," apolousis "purification," aploun "simple," or aei ballon "always shooting (arrows)." None of these are likely to be the true origin. There was a Hittite God of plagues-and also of healing-whose name was Aplu. The neighboring Luwians also had a God called

Apaliunas. Both almost certainly derive directly from the Akkadian Aplu Enlil-"the son of Enlil." Ibis was a title of the Assyrian God Nergal, who was linked to Shamash, the Babylonian God of the sun. Many of the most popular Greek deities were imports from the East, and it is perfectly possible that Apollo was among them. Interestingly, in Homer's Iliad, Apollo is firmly on the side of the Trojans, not the Greeks, also suggestive that his origins lie further east than Greece. 16th C.

Apollodorus c? Meaning "gift of APOLLO," this was a common Ancient Greek name, borne by numerous prominent men in Antiquity, such as the historian Apollodorus of Athens (fl. 146 BCE) and the comic playwright Apollodorus of Carystus (fl. 300-260 BCE). Fem: Apollodora.

Apollonia Y Meaning "belonging to APOLLO," this was a favorite name across most Catholic and Orthodox countries in the Middle Ages because of the third-century St. Apollonia of Alexandria. The myth goes that she was tortured by having her teeth broken-and thus was invoked against tooth-ache. The name wasn't used in Britain much before the sixteenth century, however, even though the saint was venerated there too. Some have argued that the surname Aplin and its variants may attest to its usage earlier, but Aplin is probably derived from Abel. After the sixteenth century, its usual form in the ESW was Appoline. Var: Appolyne, Appolyn, Applyn, Abiline, Abilene, Opalina (hist).

Apollonius e A popular name in ancient times meaning "belonging to APOLLO," it was borne by numerous figures in Antiquity such as the third-century BCE poet Apollonius of Rhodes, the first-century BCE Stoic philosopher Apollonius of Tyre, and the first-century CE wandering philosopher, ascetic, and miracle-worker Apollonius of Tyana, who was later regarded as a master of alchemy.

Aponi y Blackfoot: apdnii "butterfly."

Apple Y e The Apple tree is hugely important in myth and legend. Its Ogham name is Quert, and it stands for love, generosity, and cleansing. Cut the fruit of the apple in half and you will see a five-pointed star. The Norse Goddess Idhunna gave apples to the other Gods and Goddesses to ensure they remained eternally young. In Greek mythology, one of the tasks

Hercules faced was to travel to the ends of the Earth to pick the apples tended by the Hesperides. It could be said an apple even caused the Trojan War. When Eris, the Greek Goddess of strife, was not invited to the marriage of Peleus and Thetis, she got her revenge (in true bad-fairy style) by tossing a golden apple among the wedding guests. On it was written, "For the most beautiful," and Hera, Aphrodite, and Athene all claimed it. They chose Paris to judge, and each tried to bribe him. Aphrodite offered him the most beautiful woman in the world-and Paris awarded the apple to her. Unfortunately the most beautiful woman in the world-Helen-was already married. Probably the most famous apple of all, however, is the forbidden fruit in the biblical Garden of Eden, which gave first Eve, then Adam, knowledge, though it is worth noting that in the Bible, no actual fruit is named. Renaissance artists by and large depicted it as an apple, perhaps because of its associations in Greek mythology. The other fruit sometimes depicted is the pomegranate. Despite being decried in the press as an outlandish "celebrity" baby name since Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin gave it to their daughter in 2004, Apple has in fact been used as a given name since the nineteenth century.

Apricot Y The word "apricot" derives ultimately from L: praecox "early-ripe" or "ripe in summer," through an astonishingly convoluted route through Greek, Arabic, Spanish, and French. Long valued for its sweet fruit, the word has also been used as a color since the early twentieth century. As early as the sixth century, apricot seeds were used to treat tumors, and the oil was used in Britain in the seventeenth century for both tumors and ulcers. Late 19th C.

April Y The name of the month adopted as a given name. It derives from Aprilis, simply the Latin name for April, a month much associated with spring and rebirth. The ultimate meaning is not known, though it is thought that it may derive from an Etruscan word. See also Avril.

Aprilia 2 An elaboration of APRIL, Aprilia is also the name of an Italian city founded in 1936, and an Italian motorcycle company. Late 19th C.

Apsara Y The name of the beautiful and elegant female spirits of clouds and water in Hindu mythology. San: apsarah is often translated into English as "nymph" or "celestial nymph." Apsaras are especially famed for their

dancing, and are said to dance in the palaces of the Gods to the music of their husbands, the Gandharvas. They are frequently depicted in Hindu art, especially on temples.

Aqua ? cc Latin: aqua "water." It has mostly appeared in the English language in compounds (such as aquamarine) or in Latin expressions, the most famous of which is probably aqua-vitae--"the water of life," a word first used by alchemists to describe "ardent" spirits. As such, the term came to be used more generally for any alcoholic spirits, especially whisky. Aqua was also the Latin name for the constellation usually known today as Hydra. Since the twentieth century, aqua has been used as an abbreviation of aquamarine for the name of the color. Late 19th C.

Aquamarine Y Latin: aqua marina "water of the sea," the name was first applied to a type of blue-green beryl. From the nineteenth century, it was used as an adjective meaning "bluish-green" or "sea-colored." "The crystal aquamarine is much valued. It is said to possess calming and protective qualities; in the past it was often carried by sailors as a talisman against drowning. Var: Aquamarina, Aqua Marina.

Aquarius a Y The constellation and sign of the zodiac, deriving from L: aqua and interpreted as meaning "the Water-carrier." It lies in an area of the sky often referred to as "the sea" because a number of sea-related constellations are found there, such as Pisces. It is considered a masculine and extrovert sign, and-despite its watery connotations-is associated with Air. Most experts in astrology believe that we have now entered or are in the process of entering the Age of Aquarius, though there is little agreement about when it started-or starts-with dates ranging from 1447 CE to 3621 CE. Some believe it will be a positive age-but others are distinctly pessimistic. As Aquarius is an Air sign, Aquarians tend to be quite cerebral. Late 19th C. Fem: Aquaria (mod).

Aquila c~ 2 Latin: aquila "eagle." Aquila is still the scientific name for the eagle family, as well as for a constellation. A fairly common male name in Roman times, it occurs in the New Testament. 16th C.

Aquilegia Y Botanical name for the columbine < AQUILA.

Ara 2 e Latin: ara "altar." Ara is the name of an ancient constellation listed by Ptolemy. The word was also used in Roman times to mean "a refuge" and "protection." In Greek, ara means "prayer," "vow," and "curse," and was personified as Ara, a Goddess of vengeance and destruction. The plural form Arai is another name for the Erinyes (the Furies). It was taken up as a given name in the seventeenth century, when it was much mixed up with Arah, a biblical male name which also came into use in that century. Heb: "wayfarer." As a girl's name, Ara may also have been confused at times with AUREA. Ara is also the name of a legendary Armenian hero known as Ara Geghetskik-"Ara the Fair." He was reputedly so handsome that Semiramis, Queen of Nineveh, fought a war just to get near him. Ara is still used as a male name in Armenia.

Arabella Y Scottish name with uncertain etymology. The first confirmed example is that of Orabilis, daughter of Ness, Lord of Neuchars in Scotland in the mid-twelfth century. This is usually taken to be Late L: orabilis "exorable." In the medieval Chansons de Geste, Oriabel appears as a man's name, and Orable as the name of the Queen of Arabia. However, its use in Scotland is often taken to represent a variant of ANNABEL (with the "n" changing to "r" by the same process seen in the change from Dunholm to Durham). Examples are found of the name in use throughout the Middle Ages and Early Modern period. Var: Arabel, Arable, Arbella, Arbell, Orabell. Bearers: Lady Arabella Stuart (1575-1615), considered at one time a successor to Queen Elizabeth I; Arabella Fermor (fl. 1712), whose feud over a lock of her hair was the inspiration for Pope's poem "'The Rape of the Lock' (1712). Arabella Strange is a character in Susanna Clarke's Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell (2004).

Arabia Y The name of the vast peninsular homeland of the Arab people since Antiquity. Its exact etymology is uncertain. It has been suggested that it derives from a root meaning "traverse" and hence "nomadic" but other options include "west," "sunset," "merchant," and "raven." 18th C.

Araceli Y Spanish name < L: ara "altar" + caelum "sky." Sp: Cielo "sky" is also used. Var: Aracely.

Arachne 2 Greek: arakhne "spider." Arachne was said to have been a beautiful young woman particularly skilled at weaving. She made the

mistake of challenging Athene to a weaving contest. Though her work was flawless, her choice of subject matter-the indiscretions of the Gods-enraged Athene, who turned her into a spider to weave for all eternity.

Aracynthias Y Epithet of Aphrodite deriving from a mountain known in Antiquity as Aracynthus. Its identification is uncertain, but it is known there was a temple to Aphrodite there. Gr: ara "prayer," "vow," and "curse" + CYNTHIA.

Aradia 2 his Witch Goddess is first recorded by Leyland in Aradia or the Gospel of the Witches (1899). It is usually derived from HERODIAS, and first occurs as a given name as early as 1900.

Aragorn c~ A name invented by J. R. R. Tolkien for the heroic chief of the Rangers and heir to the throne of Gondor in Lord of the Rings. Tolkien never stated explicitly what the etymology of Aragorn was meant to be, but a note he once made implies that "kingly valor" was the intended meaning. First used as a given name in the 1960s.

Aramazd Gc The name of the principal God in the Armenian pantheon. He was, unsurprisingly, identified by the Greeks with Zeus. The name ultimately derived from the chief Zoroastrian deity Ahura Mazda, who was also known to the Greeks, who Hellenized it as Oromasdes. Old Persian: mazda "intelligence" and "wisdom." Ahura derives from the Indo-Iranian asura. In Hindi, this has come to mean "demon" and "evil spirit," but its meaning was originally a more general term meaning "divine." It is quite possibly cognate with Norse & sir. The form Aramazd was influenced by the name of the Armenian folk-hero ARA, and the name is sometimes even treated as a combination of Ara with mazda.

Araminta Y Araminta is usually considered to be a combination of ARABELLA and AMINTA. However, there are early examples of Aramintha, Araminthia, and Aramantha, which suggests that the name may actually have arisen as a variant of AMARANTHA. An Aramantha Robartes- daughter of the 1st Earl of Radnor-was baptized in 1655, six years after Amarantha featured in Richard Lovelace's poem. She is usually called Araminta. Araminta featured twice in quick succession in drama in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth-centuries-first William Congreve's

The Old Bachelor (1693), then Sir John Vanbrugh's The Confederacy (1705), cementing Araminta as a name in its own right. Used ever since. Dim: MINTY.

Arancia Y Italian: arancia "orange." Late 20th C.

Arani cc y Sanskrit: arani "being fitted to" or "moving around." An arani is one of a pair of ceremonial sticks rubbed together to light a sacrificial fire. Together, the sticks represent the male and female elements of Nature, as together, they create the spark of life. The "female Arani" is identified with Aditi. Var: Aranee.

Aranka Y Hungarian name, the origins of which aren't clear. It is certainly used as a pet-form of Aurelia-the Hungarian form of AURELIA-but it may have evolved separately from Hun: arany "gold."

Arantxa 2 Basque name, used mostly in Spain. It is short for Arantzazu, the name of a town which features in a title of the Virgin Mary-Nuestra Senora deArantzazu-as there is a shrine to her there. The town derives its name from Basque: arantza "thorn." Var: Aranzazu. Bearers: Aranzazu "Arantxa" Sanchez Vicario (b. 1971), the Spanish tennis player.

Aranya Y Romani: aranya "lady." Strictly speaking, aranya is Hungarian Romani; the English Romani is Araunya or RAWNIE. 20th C.

Arasteh Y Persian name-arasteh "adorned" and "decorous."

Arawn ' The king of the Underworld, Lord of Annwfn, in Welsh myth. Its etymology is obscure. It may be connected to CC: *ar yo- "to plough" or even to the same root meaning "mound" which may be behind Arianrhod. Either way, the implication is that Arawn is a God of the Earth and fertility. He fought against the Children of Don in the Cad Goddeu "The Battle of the Trees" and is the leader of the Wild Hunt.

Arc ' Y Arc's use as a given name since the nineteenth century seems mostly to have been in honor of the French heroine and saint Joan of Arc (c. 1412-31). Joan didn't actually come from a place called Arc; d'Arc became the standard spelling of her father's surname, which was spelled in

all manner of ways in contemporary documents. Probably, her family did originate from one of the places called Arques or Arc in France, with Arc-en-Barrois being the most likely. It derives from L: arcus "arch," "bow," and "curve." L: arcum is the same source of the English word "arc," which features in the Theosophic concept of Ascending and Descending Arcs-also known as Luminous and Shadowy Arcs.

Arcadia 2 Arcadia is a region in Greece named after the Greek prince ARCAS. In ancient times it was considered a rural paradise or Utopia, and was often the setting of pastoral poems by Classical and later authors. The famous Latin phrase et in Arcadia ego meaning "I am even in Arcadia" is a well-known memento mori, meaning that even in paradise, there is death, and death comes to us all. Var: Arcady.

Arcana 2 cc Latin: arcanus "closed," "hidden," and "secret." The neuter Arcanum-"the secret thing"-became an important concept of Alchemy; it is the great secret of Nature, which alchemists are set upon discovering. Arcana is the plural; in ancient times, it acquired the additional sense of "sacred things" and "mysteries." The Major and Minor Arcana are well known in the Tarot. 20th C. Var: Arcane.

Areas (' A son of Zeus by Callisto. He was king of Arcadia, to which he gave his name. Gr: arkos "a bear." Zeus turned his mother into a bear to protect her from the wrath of Hera, well known for her nasty tendency to relentlessly pursue Zeus's mortal lovers and illegitimate offspring. The myth goes that after many years wandering in Arcadia, Callisto was at last reunited with her son, but unfortunately, he did not recognize her. He was about to kill her, when Zeus averted the tragedy by placing them both in the firmament as the constellations Ursa Major and Ursa Minor-the Great Bear and the Little Bear.

Archana ? Indian name. San: arcana "worship." It is the name given to the chanting of the names of a deity during a Hindu ritual.

Archelaus c~ Greek: arkhos "leader" and "ruler" + laos "people." Borne by a number of historical and mythological figures in Antiquity, including a son of Hercules and a character in the Bible. 17th C.

Archer e Archery is a practice which dates to the Paleolithic era. Understandably, with the role it has played in hunting and warfare, it has developed huge cultural significance, with important deities in many world mythologies holding sway over it. Divinities especially well known for archery include Apollo and Artemis, Krishna and Ullr, not to mention the constellation Sagittarius, often referred to simply as "the Archer." Skill at archery was hugely valued until the development of firearms, and archery contests feature frequently in myth and legend. Notable examples include the suitors of Penelope endeavoring to string the bow of Odysseus to win her hand, and the contest for the silver arrow held by the Sheriff of Nottingham in an attempt to capture Robin Hood. The surname Archer is relatively common, testifying to how many men in the Middle Ages were skilled bowmen. 17th C.

Archibald c~ Old English: Eorcanbeald-eorcan "genuine" and "precious" + beald "bold," cognate with the Old German Ercanbald. The Germanic version was a popular name with the Normans, who brought it with them to Britain, replacing or reinforcing the English version. It has remained in use ever since, seeing most use in Scotland. Dim: ARCHIE.

Archie c~ Short form of ARCHIBALD, used independently since the nineteenth century, especially in Scotland, where it even has its own Gaelic form-Eairsidh. The character of Archie Macdonald in the British television drama Monarch of the Glen (2000-2006) has popularized the name in Britain in recent years.

Archina Y Scottish feminine form of ARCHIBALD. 19th C.

Arcturus c~ Traditional name of Alpha Bootis, the brightest star in the constellation Bootes, and the third brightest in the night sky after Sirius and Canopus. Gr: arktos "bear" + ouros "guardian," referring to the adjacent constellations of Ursa Major and Ursa Minor. According to Greek myth, Arcturus was placed in the sky by Zeus to protect the two bears-which in their mortal lives were Arcas and Callisto from his ever-jealous wife Hera. Bearers: Regulus Arcturus Black, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Ardal c~ Irish Gaelic: ard- "chief," "high" + gal "valor." Var: Ardghal. Bearers: Ardal O'Hanlon (b. 1965), the Irish comic actor.

Arddun 2 Old Welsh name meaning "beautiful." It derives ultimately from the same source as ARDUINNA. Borne by a daughter of the legendary Pabo Post Prydain and wife of the sixth-century king of Powys, Brochwel ap Cyngen. Revived 20th C. Var: Arddyn.

Arden c~ Y The name of a once large forest in the Midlands, which Shakespeare used as the setting for *As You Like It*, although it may be that the Arden Shakespeare intended was the Belgian Ardennes. Both derive from the CC: *ardwo- "high." The Ardennes are known to have been associated with the Goddess Arduinna in ancient times. The English Forest of Arden gave rise to the surname. 17th C.

Ardent 2 English adjective meaning "earnest" and "passionate," though its original sense was "burning," "red-hot" and "fiery." L: ardens "burning." Mid-19th C.

Ardor a Y Latin: ardor "heat." Its original use in English was "fire" and "blaze"; in the seventeenth century, it was also used of a type of fiery spirit—such beings get a mention in Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1667). As early as the fourteenth century, however, it was used to refer to the heat of desire, passion, and enthusiasm. 20th C.

Arduinna ? Celtic Goddess associated mostly with the Ardennes in Belgium. She may also have been connected to the Forest of Arden in Britain, though there is no contemporary evidence of it. CC: *ardwo- "high." She is often depicted in modern images as a young woman riding a boar. This is largely down to the discovery in the Ardennes in the nineteenth century of a statue of a woman on a boar. Since the old symbol of the Ardennes is a boar, the assumption was made that the woman was Arduinna. Var: Ardbinna.

Ares cc Greek God of war. Gr: ara or are "prayer," "vow," and "curse." 17th C—although the record is muddled because of the existence of the Puritan name Arise. This was used for both boys and girls. Var: Aris.

Aretas e The Hellenized form of the name of four kings of Nabataea, whose capital was the famous city Petra. It is thought to be the same as the Arabic

name Harith < Ar: harith "plowman." The Greeks almost certainly shaped their version with arete "excellence," "goodness," and "virtue" in mind.

Arete Y Greek: arete "excellence," "goodness," and "virtue," Arete is the personification of virtue. She and her sister Harmonia were worshipped as the Praxidikai-"enforcers of justice." 16th C. Var: Areta, AURETTA, ORETTA (hist); Aretha (mod). Bearers: Aretha Franklin (b. 1942), the American singer.

Arethusa Y A nymph beloved of the river God Alpheus. She fled from him to Ortygia, near Sicily, where she was turned into a spring. This still didn't stop Alpheus, who changed his course to flow under the sea to Ortygia, where he mingled his waters with Arethusa's. The etymology isn't clear, and given the spring's location, may not be Greek in origin at all, but there is still the semblance of a meaning in Greek, with hints of aresthai "to carry off" and "to win," or a combination of areion "better," and theousa "running" or "shining." 18th C.

Arfon c~ Welsh name taken from an ancient name for the region of North West Gwynedd. W: ar "opposite" + Mon Anglesey. Late 19th C. Fem: Arfona, Arfonia.

Argante 2 The Queen of Avalon in Layamon's Brut (c. 1190), who is usually identified with Morgan le Fay. It has been suggested that her name may derive from that of the Goddess Arianrhod; whether this is true or not is impossible to prove, but it almost certainly does derive from CC: *arganto- "silver."

Argent cc Y Latin: argentum "silver." Argent is still used as a term in heraldry, as well as being the French word for silver too. It has been in use as a given name since the sixteenth century, when it seems to have seen more use as a girl's name (presumably as a simplified form of ARGENTEA). By the nineteenth century, it was used more for boys, probably representing the use of the surname, which derives from the same source.

Argentea 2 Latin: argenteus "silvery" or "of silver." Argentea is found in numerous botanical names such as Salvia argentea-silver sage, also known

as silver clary-and *Tilia argentea*-the silver lime. It is also found as an epithet of St. Mary in Norica, Italy, where there is a cathedral to Santa Maria Argentea. 16th C. Var: Argenta, Argentia, ARGENT.

Argentina Y Argentina is best known today as the name of the South American country. It was named Argentina by sixteenth-century Spanish and Portuguese explorers because of reports that the hinterland was rich in silver. Argentina, however-deriving from the same source as Argentina the country, namely L: *argentum* "silver"-was also used as a girl's name in Britain in the Middle Ages, giving rise to the surname Argentine.

Aria Y Italian: aria "air." In music, it is used to refer to a solo in an opera. 18th C. Var: Ariaiah.

Ariadne Y The daughter of King Minos of Crete, who helped Theseus destroy the minotaur and escape from Crete-only to be abandoned by him on an island on the way back to Athens. Fortunately, Dionysus happened to pass by, fall in love with her, and marry her. Her mother was Pasiphae, the daughter of Helios (God of the sun), and Ariadne is likewise sometimes considered a Goddess. Gr: *ari* "very" + *adnos*-a Cretan Greek form of *hagnos* "pure." 17th C. It: ARIANA, Fr: ARIANE.

Arial e Y Welsh: arial "vigor" and "liveliness." Often treated as a variant of ARIEL. 20th C.

Ariana Y Italian form of ARIADNE, Ariana was first used in the ESW in the nineteenth century. It is also sometimes treated as a Welsh name, an elaboration of W. *arian* "silver." The Greek and Roman writers used Ariana to refer to the eastern part of modern Iran-the original Old Persian form was *Airydne*. This also gives us the term "Aryan," which has acquired a great deal of unpleasant baggage in the twentieth century, though it carried none beforehand. Var: Arianna. Bearers: Ariana Dumbledore, a character in the Harry Potter series.

Ariane y French form of ARIADNE, used in French as the name of some types of hummingbird. European space rockets are also called Ariane. Used in the ESW since the early twentieth century. Bearers: Princess Ariane of Orange-Nassau (b. 2007), daughter of the heir apparent of the Dutch crown.

Ariannell Y Welsh: arian "silver" + gell "yellow" and "bright." Borne by an obscure sixth-century saint. 20th C.

Arianrhod Y A Welsh Goddess, whose name has been passed down to us in the Mabinogion and other medieval Welsh sources. Arianrhod is usually explained as deriving from W: arian "silver" + rhod "wheel." This has led to her being identified as a Goddess of the moon, and as such she has become one of the most popular Goddesses of the modern Pagan movement. An early form of her name is Aryanrot, so the derivation "silver wheel" is certainly a possibility, and as the Milky Way is called *CaerArianrhod*, the celestial link definitely exists, perhaps supporting the hypothesis that she is a Goddess of the moon. Likewise, the fact she is the mother of Llew, whose name may mean "light." However, in the past, the usual form of the name was Aranrhod, and the earliest form of her name to survive is Aranrot. The second element remains the same, meaning "something round" (i.e. a wheel), but the first may derive from the same source as Modern Welsh: aran "mound" and "mountain," which may turn her into an Earth Goddess. She may have passed into Arthurian myth as Argante of Avalon-considered one and the same with Morgan le Fay. 20th C.

Arianwen Y The name of a very obscure sixth-century Welsh saint, who, like many such saints, probably represents the adoption into the Church of a pre-Christian Goddess or genius loci. W: arian "silver" + gwyn. 19th C.

Aricia y A niece of King Aegeus of Athens, Aricia became the wife of Virbius, the name borne by Hippolytus after he was resurrected to life as a demigod. According to Roman tradition, she gave her name to an area sacred to Dianato whom Virbius was particularly devoted-which in time became a Roman town. Aricia is also the name of a genus of butterflies, including the beautiful and rare Brown Argus. Probably L: aro "to plough."

Aricina 2 Epithet of the Goddess Diana used at Aricia (modern Ariccia), a town near Rome from which it derives. The Romans believed the town was named after ARICIA. The sanctuary of Diana Aricina-famed in the ancient world as a centre of healing-was located at nearby Lake Nemi. It was presided over by a priest called the Rex Nemorensis, who had to kill the previous incumbent after first plucking a golden bough from one of the

trees in the sacred grove. In Virgil's Aeneid, Aeneas himself plucks such a golden bough not to challenge the Rex Nemorensis, but to present to the Sibyl at Cumae. This golden bough provided the title for Sir James Frazer's The Golden Bough (1890), which discussed ancient fertility cults revolving around the worship and sacrifice of sacred kings like the Rex Nemorensis.

Ariel cc Y A sprite in Shakespeare's The Tempest. Where Shakespeare got the name is uncertain. It is possible he took it from Renaissance Jewish demonology, which features a water spirit called Ariel. This may simply be a variation of the adjective "aerial," since Ariel is an "airy spirit." The name is also that of an archangel-Heb: "altar of (a) God" or "lion of (a) God." He is associated with healing, creation, and anger. In Gnosticism, Ariel is considered to be the ancient name of a creator God, who is often pictured as a lion-headed deity. Most people today associate Ariel with Disney's Little Mermaid (1989). Ariel is found as a male name from the sixteenth century, and as a girl's from the nineteenth.

Aries c? Y The constellation and sign of the zodiac known in English as "the Ram." It took its name from the golden ram sent by the cloud Goddess Nephele to rescue her children Phrixus and Helle- they were about to be sacrificed on the whim of their wicked stepmother. When Phrixus reached Colchis, he sacrificed the ram to Zeus and gave its fleece to King Aeetes as a thank you for receiving him. Aeetes hung the fleece on a tree in a grove sacred to Ares, guarded by a dragon which never slept. It was this fleece that Jason was sent to steal, leading to his famous voyage with the Argonauts. Those born under the star-sign of Aries, one of the Fire signs, are said to be headstrong and courageous, and to make natural leaders. 19th C.

Arietina y Latin: arietinus "of a ram." It can also be interpreted as "belonging to ARIES."

Arietta Y Italian: "gentle breeze" and "little ARIA." Used of a short musical composition in English since the eighteenth century, and found as a name from the nineteenth, although in some cases it may have been used as a variant of Harrieta, a Latinized form of HARRIET. Var: Arieta, Arrieta.

Arioch c? Hebrew: "fierce lion." It is the name of more than one obscure biblical character, and was adopted by John Milton for the name of a fallen angel in his *Paradise Lost* (1667).

Arion Gc A legendary Greek cithara player and poet. The tale goes that he won a musical contest in Sicily, but on his way home to Greece, he was attacked by pirates. The pirates gave him the option of being thrown into the sea-and thus receiving no burial (crucial for Greeks in order to get to the Underworld)-or to commit suicide, after which they said they would bury him on land. Arion asked to be given the chance to sing one more time. He sang an ode to Apollo, drawing a number of dolphins around the ship. At the end of his song, he jumped into the sea, and one of the dolphins carried him to safety. Apollo placed this dophin in the sky as the constellation Delphinus. The meaning of Arion is not clear. It may simply derive from Gr: Arios "Persian" (from which the word "Aryan" derives). Alternatively, it may be Gr: airo "to lift up," areion "stronger," "better," and "more excellent," ara "prayer," "vow," and "curse," areios "devoted to Ares" or "warlike" or simply ari "very" + suffix -6n. 18th C.

Aristaeus o' The name of a minor Greek deity, a son of Apollo and Cyrene. The Greeks believed he developed the art of bee-keeping. Gr: aristos "best."

Aristander a Greek aristos "best" + aner "man," the name of the favorite seer of Alexander the Great. He was famed for the accuracy of his interpretations, as well as his numerous omens and dreams.

Aristides a' Greek: aristos "best" + the suffix -ides. Borne by a second-century saint, who is largely responsible for the name's later use in Catholic and Orthodox lands. 19th C. Fr: Aristide.

Aristion 6~ Greek: aristos "excellent" and "best" + suffix -ion. A common name in Ancient Greece.

Aristophanes e Greek: aristos "best" + pbaino "to appear." The most famous Aristophanes was the Athenian comic playwright often called the "Father of Comedy," who lived during the Peloponnesian War and was a contemporary of Euripides, Sophocles, Socrates, and Pericles. 17th C.

Arjuna cc The name of one of the heroes of the Mahabharata. San: arjuna "silver," "white" or "shining." Arjuna is considered to be an incarnation of Nara. He is a master archer and known for being loyal to his friends. Arjun is the more usual form of the name in modern India, and both Arjuna and Arjun have been used in the ESW in recent years.

Arlette Y Old French name of very uncertain origin, said to have been the name of the mother of William the Conqueror. Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. The variant Arline was used by Balfe in his opera *The Bohemian Girl* (1843). Arline is found in Quebec from the early nineteenth century, and spread elsewhere during the rest of the century. Var: Arletta, Arlene.

Armaiti Y The Zoroastrian Goddess of devotion and piety, one of the Amesha Spentas. Her name means "devotion," "piety," and "righteousness" in Avestan.

Armandine ? Feminine of Armand, French form of HERMAN. Used in the ESW from the nineteenth century.

Armenia 2 An ancient land in the Caucasus. In the sixth-century BCE Behistun inscription, Armenia appears as Armina. The Greek word Armenioi for the name of the people dates to the fifth century BCE, but the etymology is not ultimately known. Armenia occurs as a name in Britain in the Middle Ages, but this is almost certainly as a variant of Armina, the feminine form of ARMIN. It occurs in the ESW again from the eighteenth century.

Armida ? A beautiful enchantress in Torquato Tasso's epic poem *Jerusalem Delivered* (1581). She bewitches the hero Rinaldo in a way reminiscent of Circe's bewitchment of Odysseus. The name seems to have been invented by Tasso.

Armigil 2 A late form of Old English Eormengild-eormen "whole" + gield "service," "offering," "sacrifice," and "tribute." Var: Ermengilde (hist); Armigel, Armigill.

Armin c~ Usual form of HERMAN in Britain in the Middle Ages, which never quite died out. Var: Armyn, Armon. Fem: Armina, Arminia, Armena (hist); ARME NIA. Armin is also a Persian name, var: Armeen. It is the name of a hero in Ferdowsi of Tus's tenth-century Persian epic Shahnameh, but its meaning is uncertain. Arman is another Persian name-drman "desire" and "ideal."

Arminel ? A name mostly confined to the West Country in England (particularly Devon), which was not uncommon there in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It is almost certainly a late medieval feminine diminutive form of ARMIN. Var: Arminell, Arminella, Armynel, Armynell.

Armor 6 The surname Armor is from OF: armurier "maker of arms." In British English, the usual spelling of the noun is "armour," although, prior to the standardization of spelling, armor-now considered American-was also in use. The noun, so redolent of knights of old, derives from L: arma "weapons." Arma virumque cano-"I sing of arms and the man"-are the first words of Virgil's Aeneid. The symbolism of armor is pretty self-explanatory-defense, protection, and strength. As a given name, it is found from at least the eighteenth century, though this almost certainly represents the adoption of the surname. Var: Armour.

Arnold c~ Arnold is usually said to have been introduced into Britain by the Normans in the forms Arnaud and Arnaut, and to derive from the Old German Arenvald- arin "eagle" + vald "power." They did-but there was also the cognate Old English Earnweald, which also probably contributed to the name's use. Revived 19th C. Dim: Arnie. Var: Arnald, Ernold, Ernald, Arnell (hist). Fin: Aarne, Fr: Arnaud, Scand: Arne, Ger: Arndt, It: Arnaldo.

Arnthor cc Anglicized form of Arnpor, an Icelandic name from ON: orn "eagle" + THOR.

Arofan The name of a seventh-century bard at the court of Selyf ap Cynan, King of Powys. His name is possibly from W: arofun "intention," or connected to CC: *ario- "noble" + *wan(n)o- "killer."

Aroha 2 cc Maori: aroha "love."

Aroni y Yoruba: aroni "fairy." Itan aroni means "fairy-tale."

Arpad Gc The name of the great Hungarian folk-hero and legendary founder of Hungary. A son of Almos, Arpad was the second Grand Prince of the Magyars. His name is traditionally derived from Hun: area "barley."

Arrakis c' Y The name of a star in the constellation Draco. Ar: ar-ragis "the dancer." It is also known as Errakis and Alrakis. Arrakis is also the name of the planet Dune, later called Rakis, in Frank Herbert's Dune series (1965-85). Mu Cephei in the constellation Cepheus-often known as Herschel's Garnet Star-has the traditional name of Erakis, which shares exactly the same etymology as Arrakis.

Arran, Aran (' Y Arran is the name of a Scottish island, inhabited since the Neolithic period, while the Aran Isles are a group of islands off the west coast of Ireland. The name of the Scottish island possibly derives from Sc Ga: airde "height" (making it cognate with ARDEN and ARDDUN). It is not beyond the realms of possibility, however, that it derives from 01: dra "kidney," perhaps referring to the island's shape. Both Arran and Aran have seen some usage as given names in recent years, but are usually treated as variants of AARON, rather than as a conscious adoption of the names of the islands.

Arria Y A celebrated woman who lived during the early Roman Empire, and whose story was preserved by the Roman writer Pliny the Younger. She was very much an example of an ideal matron by Roman standards-chaste, pious, and selflessly devoted to her husband Caecina Paetus. When he was forced to commit suicide for his part in a rebellion against the Emperor Claudius, she stabbed herself, then handed her husband the dagger, saying, "it doesn't hurt, Paetus." Her name is the feminine form of Arrius, which probably derives from L: aro "to plough." 18th C.

Arrietty y A name invented by Mary Norton for the character Arrietty Clock in The Borrowers series (1955-82). Possibly inspired by ARIETTA. Late 20th C.

Arrow c~ Y The bow and arrow was one of mankind's first weapons, with arrowheads made of flint dating to the early Stone Age. Symbolically an arrow often represents readiness for war, speed, flight, sharpness, and the hunt. It is a symbol of the God Apollo, the archer God, and his huntress sister Diana. In the Hindu pantheon, Krishna is also often shown with a bow and arrow. A silver arrow was used by the Sheriff of Nottingham in an attempt to capture Robin Hood, another legendary archer. The derivation of the English word through the Old Teutonic is ultimately connected to L: arcus "bow" and means "something belonging to a bow." Arrow is also the name of two rivers, one in the Welsh Marches and the other in Worcestershire. Their etymology is unrelated to the English word, coming from the same source as rivers such as the HIRE. The surname Arrow comes from the rivers. 18th C.

Arsinoe y Greek: arsis "raising"+ nous "mind." Arsinoe was the name of a number of characters in Greek mythology, most notably the mother of Asclepius by Apollo. It was also the name of a number of Egyptian queens of the Ptolemaic period, including the younger half-sister of Cleopatra. 18th C.

Arta 2 c In Zoroastrianism, arta is cognate with ASHA, deriving from the proto-Indian-Iranian artk- "truth." It is used as both a male and female name in Iran. Arta is also a traditional Albanian girl's name, which probably derives from Alb: arte "golden." The city of Arta in Greece, however, was ruled by Albanian tribesmen in the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries, and may be the inspiration for its adoption. The name is also the feminine of CC: *arto- "bear," although it is unattested as a given name in ancient times. When Arta first appeared in the ESW in the nineteenth century, it was treated as a feminine of ARTHUR. Var: Artie.

Artaius cc A Gaulish God known in an inscription from France, where he is invoked as Mercury Attains. CC: *arto "bear."

Artemas c~ Hypocoristic form of ARTEMIDORUS. Borne by a very early Christian saint mentioned in Paul's Epistle to Titus. 16th C. Var: Artemus, ARTEMIS.

Artemidorus (' A second-century CE diviner famous for his *Oneirocritica*-
"The Interpretation of Dreams." Gr: ARTEMIS + *didomi* "to give"-i.e.
"given by Artemis" or "gift of Artemis."

Artemis 2 e One of the most important Goddesses of the Greek pantheon,
Artemis, the twin sister of Apollo, is a virgin Goddess who presides over
hunting, fertility, and childbirth. She is also associated with Selene,
Goddess of the moon, and so is often seen depicted with a crescent moon
upon her head. Another association is with Hecate.'Me etymology isn't
entirely certain. Options include Gr: *artemes* "safe and sound" and *artemia*
"recovery," both from *artios* "complete" or "perfect of its kind." Another
possible source is Gr: *ark(t)os* "bear." Artemis was linked with bears in the
ancient world, which makes the later plausible, although the association
may have developed in retrospect. 20th C-earlier examples are a variant of
the male name ARTEMAS, as encountered in Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl*
novels (2001-).

Artemisia ? Greek: *Artemisios* "belonging to ARTEMIS." The name of the
queen of Caria who built the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus-one of the Seven
Ancient Wonders of the World-in the fourth century BCE. Artemisia is the
Latin name for the wormwood, a plant used in herbal medicine from
ancient times for complaints as diverse as painful periods and hair loss.
Ruled by Mars and Fire, wormwood is used magically to enhance psychic
powers. It can also be used for protection and to promote love. 17th C.
Bearers: Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-c. 1656), an Italian artist.

Artephius c? A legendary alchemist, to whom a number of alchemical texts
were ascribed. The texts were believed to go back to at least the thirteenth
century. It was commonly believed that he had been born in the first
century, but lived to the twelfth because he had successfully produced the
elixir of life, and he has sometimes been linked to Apollonius of Tyana.'The
origin of the name is unknown; it may be derived from ORPHEUS, or be
the Hellenized form of a nonGreek name.

Arthan e Y Alban Arthan is the Druid name for the Winter Solstice.'The
word arthan is an Old Welsh word signifying "winter," taken from the
writings of Iolo Morgannwg. It is believed to derive from arth "bear" and
be connected with ARTHUR. 19th C.

Arthen c' Old Welsh name, probably deriving from CC: *arto- "bear" + *geno- "born." Arthen is interesting, because we know it is the name of a river God; "St. Arthen," however, is said to have been one of the children of Brychan Brycheiniog. This is one of the most compelling examples of a Pagan deity being turned into a Christian saint-which is probably true of most, if not all, of Brychan's numerous offspring. 19th C. Var: Arthien, Arthgen.

Arthfael cc Welsh name-arth "bear" + mael "prince." It was the name of more than one figure in early Welsh history. Revived 19th C.

Arthur c? The name of the great legendary king of Britain has been the subject of much debate regarding its meaning. Some propose that it derives from the rare Roman nomen Artorius, and was borne by a real historical Romano-British figure of sub-Roman Britain. Others believe it is more likely to be the name of a Brythonic hero and demigod, more of a Herculean figure. There is evidence to suggest that the ancient Druids saw him as symbolic of the sun, and linked him with the Winter Solstice. If this is so, the name is more likely to derive from CC: *arto- "bear" or the related L: ARCTURUS; the Romans had a considerable influence upon native religion and mythology. As a genuine given name, Arthur was in use as early as the sixth century, and has been used continually in Wales ever since-and quite possibly elsewhere in Britain too. There are two Arthurs in the Domesday Book (recorded as Artor and Artur). Dim: Artie, Art. Fr, Ger: Arthur, Sc Ga: Artair, Fin: Artturi, Arttu, Cat, Pol, Port: Artur, It, Sp: Arturo. Bearers: Arthur, Duke of Brittany (d. 1203), the nephew of King Richard I and King John; Arthur, Prince of Wales (d. 1502), oldest son of King Henry VII; Arthur, Duke of Connaught (1850-1942), third son of Queen Victoria; Arthur Miller (1915-2005), the American playwright; Arthur C. Clarke (1917-2008), the British science fiction author; Arthur Dent, the central character in Douglas Adams's Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series (1979-92); Arthur Weasley, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Artio Y A Goddess known from a number of inscriptions in Europe. CC: *arto- "bear."

Arun c? Hindi: arun "reddish-brown," referring to the color of the sky before sunrise. The word derives from Aruna- the name of the charioteer of the sun in Sanskrit mythology. It means "dawn" as well as "red color" in Sanskrit. Aruna is often used now as a feminine form of Arun.

Arundel c~ Y English surname, deriving from two sources. The first is an adoption of the name of the old Sussex town famous for its castle. OE: hare Mine "horehound" (the herb) + ME: delle "dell." The second source is OF: arondel- "little swallow." 17th C.

Arwen ? Arwen was originally a Welsh name, which came into use at the end of the nineteenth century-W: intensifying prefix ar- + gwyn. Its adoption may have been influenced by the ancient Welsh name ARIANWEN. Arwen was chosen by Tolkien as the name for the elven princess Arwen Undomiel in The Lord of the Rings. He gave it the meaning "noble maiden" in Sindarin. Var: Arwena, Arwenna.

Asa c? Hebrew: "doctor" or "healer." 16th C. Bearers: Asa Briggs (b. 1921), a British historian.

Asal Y Persian name- `asal "honey."

Asami y Japanese name-asa "morning" and mi "beauty."

Asaph c? The obscure Welsh saint who gives his name to the tiny city of St. Asaph. He is also known as ASA, but it is highly unlikely that the name is etymologically connected with the biblical figure. There are various places in North East Wales which include his name in theirs, such as Llanasa and Pantasa. It is not beyond the realms of possibility, therefore, that in fact he was once a local deity, one of many turned into a saint by the early Church. Intriguingly, his feast day is May 1, also highly suggestive of divine origin. It is extremely tempting, therefore, to suggest a link to the well-documented Celtic God ESUS, whose name appears in numerous inscriptions in Europe, as well as featuring as an element in Celtic personal names in Britain. 17th C.

Asarluhi e A Mesopotamian God of magic and healing, who features frequently in Assyrian and Babylonian incantations. Associated with

Marduk, he is a son of Ea. The first part of his name is uncertain-it may be connected with OSIRIS; there is certainly a Mesopotamian God called Asaru, who is associated with the Egyptian God. Another possibility is a link with ASHUR. In Sumerian, asal/asar also happens to be the word for "poplar tree." The second two elements are almost certainly Sumerian: lu "man" + hi "to mix," so the name might be interpreted as "Asaru, who stirs up men." Var: Asalluhi.

Ascanius The son of Aeneas. Ascanius was also called lulus and was believed in Roman times to be the ancestor of the Julian clan. The meaning is unknown, but there were regions called Ascanius and Ascania in Asia Minor in ancient times, and given Ascanius's Trojan origins this might not be coincidental. Ascania is possibly the kingdom of Ashkenaz which gets a mention in the Bible (it was believed to have been named after a character of the name-a common motif in myths about how places got their names). In medieval times, this Ashkenaz was equated with the Norse ASKR and the shadowy Aschanes, said to have been the legendary founder of the Saxons. This led to Germany itself acquiring the name Ashkenaz in the period-hence Ashkenazi Jews. Aschanes, however, is pure early medieval invention, created as a blend of OG: Sahsun (see Saxon) + Askr and heavily influenced by Ascanius and Ashkenaz-which all starts to take us round and round in circles. Ironically, however, there may be a genuine connection; if the true origin of Ashkenaz is Indo-European, its source might well be PIE: *os- "ashtree"-just like Askr. 19th C.

Ascella 2 A euphonious name with the less than euphonious meaning of "armpit" in Late Latin. Ascella-also known as Zeta Sagittarii-is a star in Sagittarius. Its name refers to its position within the constellation.

Asclepias cc Y Botanical name for milkweed, an important herb, native to North America. It was named by Linnaeus after ASCLEPIUS because of its medicinal properties. One of its names is pleurisy root, because of its potency in treating chest infections and conditions such as asthma, flu, and fevers. It was unknown in Europe before the eighteenth century.

Asclepiodotus a' Greek: ASCLEPIUS + didomi "to give"-i.e. "given by Asclepius" or "gift of Asclepius." Bearers: Asclepiodotus of Alexandria, a fifth-century Neo-Platonic philosopher. His wife, the daughter of the

philosopher Asclepiodotus of Aphrodisias, had been childless, but produced a baby after visiting the shrine of Isis at Menouthis. Local Christians, however, claimed that the child had simply been bought from a priestess, and used the incident as an excuse to destroy the shrine. Var: Asclepiodorus. Fem: Asclepiodota, Asclepiodora.

Asclepius c~ A Greek God of healing and medicine, Asclepius was a son of Apollo. His symbol-a snake coiled around a staff-remains the symbol of the medical profession to this day.'The meaning of the name is not known for certain. It is probably pre-Greek in origin, perhaps Hittite or Assyrian. Latin: Aesculapius.

Asenath y The Egyptian wife of Joseph, which may mean "she belongs to NEITH" or "she belongs to you" in Egyptian. 17th C. Var: Azenath.'The Romani names Asena and Ashena probably derive from it.

Ash c~ Y The name of the tree, rich in symbolism and mythology. Its Ogham name is Nion.'The ash is regarded as a tree which embodies universal truths. To the Norse it was Yggdrasil-the World Tree, uniting all of existence, past, present, and future. OE: eesc "ash tree," cognate with the ON: ASKR. Both Ash and Ashe are found as given names from the sixteenth century, though it is likely they are either examples of the transferred use of the surname, or a reference by cheerful Puritans to the phrase "ashes to ashes and dust to dust" from the Book of Common Prayer (1549). Today, Ash is frequently found as a short form of names beginning with Ash- such as ASHLEY and ASHTON. In M.M. Kaye's Far Pavilions (1978), Ash is used as a short form of the Indian name Ashok-San: ashoka "without sorrow"-as well as the character's real name, Ashton.

Asha a' Y Sanskrit: asa "hope," "wish," and "desire." Long used in India for both girls and boys. In Zoroastrianism, Asha-a.k.a Arta Vahishta-is the God of truth and order, one of the Amesha Spentas. Used in the ESW from the twentieth century.

Ashanti Y e The Ashanti are one of the Akan people of West Africa, who had a large and powerful empire in the region before European colonization. The etymology is obscure. It may derive from Akan: osa-nti

"warlike" or osanti-fo "because of the war." Late 20th C. Bearers: Ashanti Douglas (b. 1980), musician and actress.

Asher c? Asher was the name of one of the brothers of Joseph who conspired to sell him into slavery. It tends to be derived from Heb: osher "happy" or "blessing," but its true origins may lie with the Goddess Asherah or the God Ashur. Indeed, it is possible that all twelve of the sons of Jacob who supposedly gave their names to the twelve tribes were in fact originally deities, Asher among them. It is certainly the case that Jewish scribes in Antiquity used to alter names out of "shame" at their derivation from-sometimes even mere resemblance to-other Gods, or anything widely out of sync with the Jewish morality and values of the time. 16th C.

Asherah Y A Semitic Earth Goddess, and the form her name takes in the Bible. References to her by name are hostile, but there are a couple of references to the "Queen of Heaven" which suggest she was once revered in Judaea-and archaeology supports this too. Her name is found across the Middle East and Anatolia as Ashratu(m), Asherdu(s), Ashertu(s), Aserdu(s), Asertu(s), and Athirat. She may also be the Ashira of Arabia, and she is sometimes identified with Astarte and Ishtar. Her name was given to a sacred pole or tree. This was her symbol, and by the time the Bible was written down it had become forbidden. The etymology is uncertain. It may be from Heb: osher "happy" or "blessing," or from a root meaning "upright"-which may be connected one way or another with her pole. 19th C.

Ashima Y A Goddess of the Samaritans mentioned by name in the Bible. She is connected to the Akkadian Goddess Shimti and Arabian Goddess Manat.

Ashley 2 c~ English surname, from one of the numerous places called Ashley in England. OE: &sc "ash" + leak. Given the significance of the ash, it may be that this is one leak in use for ritual purposes. 17th C. Use from the mid-twentieth century was heavily influenced by the name's appearance in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* for the character of (George) Ashley Wilkes. Ashley came into general use for girls around the 1960s. Var: Ashleigh.

Ashnan Y A Mesopotamian grain Goddess, a daughter of Enlil. Akkadian: asnan "grain" and "cereal."

Ashti y cc Kurdish name-ashti "peace." Var: Assti.

Ashton 2 English surname, derived from various place names. OE: &sc "ash" + tun. 17th C. As a girl's name, it was little used prior to the appearance of the character Ashton Main in North and South (1985). Bearers: Ashton Kutcher (b. 1978), the American actor; Ashton "Ash" Pelham-Martyn, hero of M.M. Kaye's The Far Pavilions (1978).

Ashur c~ A major Mesopotamian God, who gave his name to the chief city of Assyria. The Assyrian Empire flourished from the start of the second millennium to the mid-sixth century BCE, when it was conquered first by the NeoBabylonians, and then the Persians. Ashur (Assur) was the most important God of the Assyrian pantheon, and is considered the equivalent of the Babylonian Marduk. The Assyrians themselves derived the name from ANSHAR. Ashur also occurs as a personal name in the Bible, and as a result is found as a given name from at least the eighteenth century although it has clearly been much confused with Asher.

Ashurbanipal Cc Akkadian: Assur-bani-apli "ASHUR is the creator of a son" < Ashur + band "to create" + aplu "son." The name of a seventh-century BCE king of Assyria. Very similar is Ashurnasirpal, the name of two Assyrian kings of the eleventh and ninth centuries BCE. Akkadian: Assurnasir-apli "Ashur is the protector of (my) son" < Ashur + ndsiru "protector," "preserver," and "tutor" + aplu "son."

Asia 2 The name of an Oceanid, mother of Atlas, Prometheus, and Epimetheus. In ancient times, most Greeks assumed she gave her name to the geographical region, but it is actually the other way around. Asia derives from the Hittite Assuwa, the name of a fourteenth-century BCE confederation of states in Western Anatolia. 16th C.

Asketil a' Old Norse name-dss "a God" + ketill "cauldron." "There was a corresponding OE name Oscytel, inspired by the Norse. Both were in use at the time of the Norman Conquest and, in forms such as Askell and Oskell, lasted in ever rarer usage to the nineteenth century, although later examples

may represent the use of surnames derived from them. Var: Anketil (hist); ANCHITEL.

Askr Gg The older form of Ask, the name in Norse mythology of the first human man. ON: askr "ash-tree."

Asian c~ Turkish: aslan "lion." The source of Aslan the Lion in C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia. In Turkish, aslan is also the name of the constellation Leo, and is used to mean "brave person." Aslanim! is a colloquial expression meaning "my good friend!"

Ashy Turkish name-as/i "essential" and "original."

Asp cc Y Asp has two distinct meanings. It is most familiar today as the name of a type of small and poisonous serpent, which Cleopatra supposedly used to commit suicide. L: aspis "asp" < Gr: aspis "asp" and "shield." The name of the snake almost certainly comes originally from an Egyptian source. The second asp is OE: asp "aspen."

Aspasia y Greek: aspasia "welcome," borne by the mistress of the Athenian statesman Pericles in the fifth century BCE, and used by Fletcher and Beaumont in the form Aspatia as the principal character in their play A Maid's Tragedy (1619). Aspasia is also the botanical name of a genus of orchids. 17th C.

Aspen cc Y The aspen is often called "the whispering tree" because of the sound of its leaves in the wind. Its Ogham name is Eadha, and it stands for trust-particularly of oneself and listening to one's inner voice-as well as inner strength. Etymologically, Aspen is a diminutive form of Asp, the older name for the tree. OE: &sp& "aspen." 18th C-but like others such as Alder, these examples probably at first represent the use of the surnames Aspen and Aspin-both of which mean "aspen'-and Aspden (OE: asp "aspen" + denu "valley").

Asphodel e Y The name of the flowering plant. The Ancient Greeks believed asphodels grew in the Elysian Fields and were eaten by the dead who dwelt there. Their roots were eaten as a vegetable among the poor of

Ancient Greece, and it was used as a remedy against snake-bites and as a protection from sorcery. Gr: asphodelos "asphodel." 19th C.

Astarte y Greek form of Ashtart-known to the Hebrews as Ashtoreth-the name of a North-Western Semitic Goddess. She is equated with ISHTAR, and her name is probably cognate or derived from it. A Mother Goddess, she is firmly associated with fertility, but also war.'The Greeks identified her with Aphrodite, and she was also worshipped in Egypt. 20th C.

Aster Y cc Greek: aster "star." It has been used as a name for the Michaelmas daisy since the eighteenth century, and later it was applied to other plants such as the Alpine aster and China aster. 17th C-though some of the early examples may represent a variant or misspelling of EASTER or ESTHER rather than a deliberate adoption of Aster itself.

Asteria Y Greek: asterios "starry." Asteria was borne by more than one character in Greek mythology. The most important is Asteria, daughter of the Titans Phoebe and Coeus, and sister of Leto. She is the mother of Hecate. Escaping the unwanted attentions of Zeus, she jumped off a cliff and was turned into a quail. Where she landed became an island, which was known in Antiquity as both Asteria and Ortygia-deriving from the Greek word for a quail. In some versions, Ortygia later became the birthplace of Artemis. Late 19th C.

Asterion cc The name of two sacred kings of Crete, one of whom was the father of Minos and consort of Europa.'The second is believed to be the Minotaur itself, and the name was used by Jorge Luis Borges in his short story "'The House of Asterion" (1949). Asterion was also the name of a Greek river God, as well as one of the Argonauts. In Antiquity, it was the name of the white campion, which the Greeks used to weave garlands for Hera. It is also an alternative name for the star Chara. Gr: aster "star" + suffix -ion. Var: Asterius.

Asterope y Greek aster "star" + ops "face." One of the Pleiades.

Aston c~ English surname, from the Old English personal names ATHELSTAN or Eadstan (ead "rich" and "happy" + stan "stone"). It is also sometimes from the Middle English for "at (the) stone"-meaning someone

who dwelt by a stone (presumably a notable one, perhaps of the dolmen variety). Another source is the place name Aston (of which there are several). OE: east "east" + tun. 16th C. Bearers: Sir Aston Cockayne (1605-84), the writer, poet and cavalier; Aston Harker, Kay Harker's great grandfather in John Masefield's *The Midnight Folk* (1927).

Astra Y Latin: astra "stars" < astrum "star." 17th C-though almost certainly at first used as a variant of ASTRAEA.

Astracannet Y e A Northumberland name for the velvet scoter, a type of sea duck, which winters in Britain. The sec

and element is English can net, usually found only in heraldry < Fr: canette < cane "duck." Superficially, astra would appear to be L: astra "stars."

Astraea Y The name of Virgo, the Celestial Maiden. She is often said to be the daughter of Zeus and Themis, and a Goddess of justice and innocence. Gr: astraios "starry." 17th C. Var: Astrea, ASTRA.

Astrantia Y Botanical name of the masterwort, either from Gr: aster "star," or its Latin counterpart astrum. Ruled by Mars and Fire, masterwort is regarded as potent in spells relating to protection, strength and courage.

Astrid Y Usual modern form of Old Norse Asfri r-ass "(a) God" + friar "beautiful." It was the name of a tenth-century Norwegian queen, as well as a sister of King Canute. Her name is usually recorded as Estrid or Astrith. It was presumably used in Danelaw, but did not take hold, and was reintroduced in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Astrid Lindgren (1907-2002), the Swedish author of the Pippi Longstocking stories.

Astronoe ? Greek form of the name of a Phoenician Goddess-probably ASHTART-remodeled to give meaning in Greek, in this case-aster "star" + nous "mind."

Astrophel d A name invented by Sir Philip Sidney for Astrophel and Stella (1591), from Gr: aster "star" + philos "lover"-the first element in Sidney's first name. It is generally accepted that Astrophel was Sidney himself, and Stella (L: stella "star") was Lady Penelope Rich (1562-1607). Astrophel

also features in an elegy for Sidney by Edmund Spenser after Sidney's death.

Astrophora Y Greek: astrophoros "bearing stars." Encountered mostly as a botanical name, the best known being the orchid *Lepanthopsis astrophora*, the delicate flowers of which resemble five-pointed stars.

Asuman Y Turkish name-asuman "firmament."

Atalanta Y The name of a Greek heroine. Her father only wanted sons, and so the infant Atalanta was left on a mountainside to die. Artemis sent a bear to suckle her. She grew up to be a famous huntress, and aided Meleager in the Calydonian Boar Hunt. Reunited with her father, she refused to marry anyone unless they could beat her in a foot race. Her father agreed-and added that those who tried but failed would be put to death. She eventually married Hippomanes who won the race with the help of Aphrodite. Gr: atalantos "equal to"-presumably men. Swinburne's poem "Atalanta in Calydon" (1865) presents a Victorian version of the myth. 16th C. Var: Athalanta.

Atarah y Hebrew: `atarah "crown." 17th C.

Ataya Y cc Cherokee: ataya "oak."

Ataya cc Y Lakota: ataya "all" and "entire."

Aten a' Egyptian: jtn "sun," "disc of the sun," as a deity, considered an aspect of Ra. The fourteenth-century BCE Pharaoh Amenhotep IV made Aten the supreme and only deity of Egyptian religion. He even changed his own name to Akhenaten Ax "soul" + n "belonging to" + Aten. His reforms to the religion of Egypt were reversed after his death.

Athairne (' Irish Gaelic name of uncertain meaning. In Irish mythology, it was the name of a bard at the court of Conchobhar mac Nessa, foster father of Amergin mac Eccit. The name used to be rendered in English as Hercules.

Athaliah Y A queen of Judah, the daughter of Jezebel and Ahab. She was a worshipper of Baal like her mother, and used her power and influence to attempt to introduce his worship in Judah following the death of her husband and son. She was eventually executed. Heb: "Yahweh is exalted." The variant Athalia is the name of a 1733 opera by Handel. Athaliah and Athalia are found as given names from the sixteenth century, with Athalia regarded as a purely Romani name by the end of the nineteenth.

Athame Y a The ritual knife used by Wiccans and in other forms of Witchcraft, symbolic of the God. The word in its present form is only known from the middle of the twentieth century, but it appears to have ancient precedents. In the late medieval grimoire The Key of Solomon, it appears as artavus "quill knife." According to Gerald Gardner's personal secretary-the Sufi writer and teacher Idries Shah-the word derived from the Arabic al-dhamme "the blood-letter." It has acquired many variations in pronunciation as Wicca has spread across the globe, but the original British Gardnerian and Alexandrian Wiccan is "A-thay-mee."

Athanasia Y Greek: athanasios "immortality," Athanasia is the name of more than one Orthodox saint. It is also the name of a flower and the source of TANSY. 18th C.

Athelstan c~ Old English: IElelstan-eoel "noble" + stan "stone." It managed to survive the Norman Conquest, probably because of King Athelstan (d. 939), and gave rise to a few surnames, such as ASTON, before dying out. Revived 19th C.

Athene 2 The virgin Greek Goddess of wisdom, weaving, and war, and patron Goddess of Athens. Athene is one of the best-known deities of Ancient Greece. Her symbol is the owl and a breastplate of goatskin called the Aegis on which the head of the Medusa was affixed-given to her by Perseus. The etymology of her name is, unfortunately, very obscure. Plato claimed the original form was Ethonoe, deriving it from Gr: ethos "customs" and noe-"mind," later altered to Athene. Another ancient suggestion is that it was in origin Etheonoa "from the mind of a God." Both are unlikely. The earliest-known form of her name appears on a Linear B tablet as Atana, and it is probable that her name ultimately has a non-Greek

origin. 17th C. Var: Athena. Bearers: Dame Athene Seyler (1889-1990), the British actress.

Atlantes e Also known as Atlante, Atlantes is a wizard who looks after the medieval literary hero Ruggiero when a boy. He first appears in the twelfth-century *Chansons de Geste*, and later features in Boiardo's *Orlando Innamorato* and Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*. His name is almost certainly just a corruption of ATLANTIS.

Atlantic Y c? The name of the ocean. Originally it was simply an adjective meaning "of Mount Atlas." Even in medieval and early modern times, it was believed that the sky rested upon its peak, and the word was applied to the western shore of Africa, being extended in the seventeenth century to the ocean beyond. 19th C.

Atlantis Y c? The legendary island, known in Greek as *Atlantis nesos* "the island of Atlas," first discussed by the Greek philosopher Plato. 20th C.

Atlas c' The Titan who holds up the sky. His father is Iapetus and his mother Asia or Clymene, and he gives his name to the range of mountains in North Africa in which he is supposed to live. The name may derive from PIE: **tel* "to uphold." Euhemerus-writing in the late fourth century, and famous for his rationalizing interpretation of Greek myths argued that Atlas had been a king of Mauritania renowned for his astronomical expertise. It was with this mythical king in mind that the sixteenth-century Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator dedicated his work to Atlas, associating the God with books of maps ever since. 16th C.

Atossa Y Greek form of the Persian name *Utautha*, also recorded as *Hutaosa*. It was the name of a daughter of the Persian king Cyrus. Used by Alexander Pope in his *Essay on Man* (1733-34).

Atropos y Oldest of the three Greek Fates, Atropos severs the thread of life. Gr: a- "without" + *tropos* "turn," an allusion to the impossibility of turning away from one's fate.

Attalus e The name of a number of figures in Greek history, including one of the generals of Alexander the Great, as well as three kings of Pergamon

in Asia Minor. Attalus I defeated the Galatians, a Celtic tribe in the third century BCE. The famous Roman marble statue "The Dying Gaul" was a copy of an original made in bronze, commissioned by Attalus to celebrate his victory. The etymology of the name is uncertain. It may be a variant of Gr: atalos "tender" and "delicate," or be a diminutive of atta "father"-a respectful term of address for elders. The old Romani name Artelus may possibly derive from Attalus.

Atticus c~ Latin: Atticus "of/from Attica." A fairly common cognomen in Roman times. The ultimate etymology is uncertain, though it is probably related to Athens-the chief city of the region-and thus also Athene. Atticus has been used as a given name since the sixteenth century. Atticus Finch is a central character in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960).

Attila c? Attila the Hun (406-53 CE) is legendary as a powerful and destructive enemy of the late Roman Empire. Because of his depiction in Roman and Greek sources, he is usually regarded as a marauding, merciless, and savage barbarian-which is hardly surprising as he gave the Romans much grief and trespassed on their territory. His fame was so widespread in the late Roman/early medieval period that he even features in some Norse sagas. It is impossible to give any meaningful etymology for the name, since so little is known about the language of the Huns. There is some evidence to suggest a connection with Turkish and Bulgar, but the evidence is simply too thin to state anything conclusively. Possibly the most persuasive argument is that Attila wasn't actually Attila's name but a title or sobriquet, possibly a diminutive of the Gothic: atta "father"-"little father." This would make it cognate with ATTALUS. Attila is used as a given name in Turkey and Hungary, and has been used in the ESW since the early nineteenth century. Var: Atila (Turk), Etele (Hun). Ger: ETZEL.

Atys cc The name of a youth who loved Cybele. Driven mad by her jealousy, he castrated himself with a stone, but was turned into a pine tree. Considered central to the cult of Cybele, he is regarded as a God of rebirth and rejuvenation. Var: Attis.

Auberon cc There seems deliberate reluctance among writers of serious books on names to acknowledge the fact that Auberon is almost certainly taken directly from literature, where it appears-often in the form Oberon-as

the name of a king of the fairies.'The name is found from the thirteenth century, and is a diminutive form of Auberi- the medieval French form of Albirich-or Alberich, from which ALBERIC and AUBREY also derive. Alberich was a legendary sorcerer who appears in the epic sagas of the Merovingian court between the fifth and eighth centuries. OG: a/ "elf" + ricja "ruler"-"king of the elves." Auberon came into use as a genuine given name in the nineteenth century. Dim: Auby, Bron. Bearers: Auberon Waugh (1939-2001), the British writer; Oberon Zell-Ravenheart (b. 1942)-born Timothy Zell-the co-founder of the Church of All Worlds.

Aubrey y Usual British form of ALB ERIC. As the vernacular form of ALBREDA, Aubrey was also used in medieval times as a woman's name, and in the twentieth century, it has again been taken up as a name for girls. Var: Aubree, Aubrie (mod) Y. Bearers: Aubrey Beardsley (1872-1898), the English artist.

Auburn Y a' Old French: alborne < L: alburnus "nearly white." In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, "auburn" was often written "abron" or "abroun," which may have suggested that it was a type of brown. Originally it referred to a yellowish or brownish white.'The surname derives from places called Aubourn or Auburn. OE: alor "alders" + burna "stream." 17th C.

Audra Y In the ESW, Audra is generally a variant of AUDREY. However, it is also a Lithuanian girl's nameaudra "storm."

Audrey Y A late medieval form of ETHELDRED, Audrey has been used as an independent name since at least the fifteenth century, but in the course of the sixteenth, it began to be regarded as vulgar. 'This reputation was worsened through its association with the word "tawdry," from the expression "tawdry lace"-the early modern equivalent of cheap and tacky costume jewelry and accessories. The expression came from "St. Audrey's lace"-originally a type of medieval neck-covering. Shakespeare's use of the name for a country wench in As You Like It did nothing to improve its image. Despite all this, it managed to survive until it was revived in the nineteenth century.'The curious Audriana, Audryan, and Audrian-found from time to time in the seventeenth century-the marvelous Adderinah in the eighteenth century, and Ederina and Aderana in the nineteenth century, probably

represent survivals of HODIERNA, rather than elaborations of Audrey. An Auderne Broughton was baptized in 1611 which strongly suggests this link. However, those using Audriana today probably have Audrey in mind. Var: Audrie, Awdrey, Awdrie, Audrye (hist); AUDRA (mod). Bearers: Audrey Hepburn (1929-93), the AngloDutch actress.

Audumla Y Old Norse: Audumla-the name of the primeval cow of Norse mythology. Audumla suckled the giant Ymir, sustaining herself by licking salty ice. In doing so, she gradually revealed Buri-the first God.'The first element of her name-audr-is cognate with OG: uod and OE: ead, "wealth" and "riches," although an identical word can mean "empty" and "desolate."The second part is much more difficult; some claim it derives from a word to describe a cow with cropped horns. However, its resemblance to EMBLA in some forms is striking. Var: Audhumla, Audhumbla, Authumla, Authumbla.

Augur cc Y A type of seer in Roman times, who made predictions by observing the flight of birds and examining the entrails of sacrificial victims. L: avis "bird" + Barrio "to talk."The English surname Augur, however, is a variant of ELGAR. 18th C.

August e 2 August is regarded by many as the height of summer, but in reality, it is a month with one foot already in fall. It begins with Lughnasadh, the celebration of the first harvest, and as it progresses, fruits and grains continue to ripen, and leaves start to turn. It dates to Roman times, when it received its name in honor of the Emperor Augustus, and most examples of August as a given name in the past were the German and Polish forms of AUGUSTUS. However, it is now beginning to see more use with reference to the month.

Augusta Y Feminine form of AUGUSTUS. It was first bestowed upon Livia-the infamous wife of the Emperor Augustus-and continued to be used by women in the imperial families of Rome. 16th C. In the eighteenth century, it was popularized by a number of members of the Royal Family such as Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha (1719-77), the mother of King George III; his sister Princess Augusta (1737-1813), and daughter Princess Augusta Sophia (1768- 1840). Dim: Gus, Gussie.

Augustine c? Meaning "belonging to AUGUSTUS," this was a very popular name in medieval Britain, due to the popularity of St. Augustine of Canterbury (d. 604), who was responsible for telling his missionaries to convert Pagan places of worship and move Pagan feasts to days celebrating "Christians martyrs." Dim: Gus. Var: AUSTIN.

Augustus e Latin: augustus "majestic" and "venerable." The name adopted by Octavian on becoming the first Roman Emperor, which was assumed by succeeding emperors, more as a title than a name, like Caesar. First used in the sixteenth century, it was popularized in the eighteenth century by the Hanoverians. The full name of King George II (1683-1760) was George Augustus, and the name was subsequently borne by other members of the royal family, such as Prince Edward Augustus, Duke of York (1739-67). Dim: Gus.

Aulay (' Anglicized form of Scots Gaelic Amladh, itself the Gaelicized form of OLAF. It has been used in Scotland from medieval times. The Gaelic surname Mac Amhlaidh and its variants are usually Anglicized as Macaulay, which has been used as a given name since the eighteenth century. Macaulay's use was promoted by The Philadelphia Story (1940) and its main character, Macaulay Connor. Bearers: Canadian politician Aulay MacAulay Morrison (1863- 1942), American actor Macaulay Culkin (b. 1980).

Aulis c3' Finnish name-aulis "willing."

Aulus c? Roman praenomen. Its origins are uncertain, but it most likely arose as a contracted form of L: avulus "little grandfather" < avus "grandfather," "ancestor," "forefather." The identical looking L: aulus-the name of a type of fluteshaped scallop shell-derived from Gr: autos "flute."

Aur Y Welsh name-aur "gold." Late 19th C.

Aura Y Latin: aura "air" and "breath." It was first adopted into English as a word at the end of the fourteenth century to mean "a gentle breeze," but only in the nineteenth century did it come to be used for an emanation from living beings. 17th C-though in early use it may have been treated as a

variant of AUREA. Bearers: South African singer Aura Lewis (b. 1947); Princess Aura, a character in the Flash Gordon comic strips.

Aurddolen Y Welsh name-aur "gold" + dolen "lint" or "ring." Used as the Welsh form of Goldilocks.

Aurea Y Latin: aureus "golden." Epithet of Venus. 17th C.

Aurelia 2 Feminine form of AURELIUS. Julius Caesar's mother was called Aurelia, and there was an eleventh-century St. Aurelia. 17th C.

Aurelian Gc Anglicized form of Aurelianus "belonging to AURELIUS." Aurelian is the name of a third-century Roman emperor, an obscure third-century French saint and a similarly obscure sixth-century Welsh saint-Paul Aurelian. Ambrosius Aurelianus, meanwhile, was a semi-legendary figure in sub-Roman Britain-and possibly the historic King Arthur. 17th C.

Aurelius c? The gens Aurelia was one of the most famous and influential in Ancient Rome, and included a number of emperors including Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, and Commodus. In 212 CE, citizenship was extended to all freeborn subjects of the Roman Empire. They all acquired the nomen Aurelius-the name of the emperor at the time, Marcus Aurelius Severus Antoninus Caracalla (188-217 CE). The name is usually said to derive from L: aurum "gold," due to its similarity to aureolus "golden" and glittering." However, it is likely it really arose as a diminutive of auris "ear," starting out as a nickname meaning "little ear." 17th C.

Auretta 2 Auretta first occurs in the eighteenth century, ostensibly a diminutive of AUREA or variant of AURORA, though it may have been influenced by ARETE, and there is evidence that the names did get muddled somewhat, along with ORETTA.

Auriel c? Y Variant form of URIEL, Auriel is encountered in use from the seventeenth century. At first it was a man's name, but the nineteenth century saw it increasingly used as a girl's name, no doubt due to its similarity to AURELIA, and possibly influenced by Aureole < L: aureolus "golden." This is a word used in English to describe the halo around the heads of saints.'The variant Auriol arose in eighteenth century-again, first as

a male name. Its adoption during the Victorian Era was almost certainly influenced by William Harrison Ainsworth's novel *Auriol: or, The Elixir of Life* (1844), in which the central character Auriol is a man. Ainsworth probably derived the name from Aureolus—a direct adoption of the Latin—which was one of the names borne by the sixteenth-century Swiss alchemist, Paracelsus. Auriol's use now, however, seems to be exclusively female. Var: ORIEL.

Aurigena Y Latin: aurigena "born of gold." Originally an epithet of Perseus.

Aurora Y The Roman Goddess of the dawn, who also gives her name to the astronomical phenomena the auroras borealis and australis, otherwise known as the northern and southern lights, respectively. The French form is *Aurore*, which is still used as a poetic word for "dawn" in French. Aurora is the name usually bestowed upon the princess in the fairy-tale "The Sleeping Beauty," although in Charles Perrault's original version of 1697, *L'Aurore* is actually the name of Sleeping Beauty's daughter—translated as Dawn in English versions—while her son is called *Le Jour*—Day. 18th C. *Aurora Leigh* (1856) is an epic poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Aushi Y Swahili: aushi "life."

Aura Y Lithuanian: ausra "dawn." The Lithuanian Goddess of the dawn.

Ausrine 2 Lithuanian: ausra "dawn." Ausrine is the name of the Goddess of the Morning Star. She is one of the children of Saule, Goddess of the sun.

Austeja 2 Lithuanian Goddess of bees. Lith: austi "to weave."

Austin c~ Usual form of AUGUSTINE in the Middle Ages. By and large, its use from the sixteenth century onwards represents the transferred use of the surname derived from it. The variant spelling Austen is sometimes used, often perhaps in homage to the English novelist Jane Austen (1775-1815). Bearers: Sir Austen Henry Layard (1817-94), the English archaeologist and Assyriologist.

Autumn Y The British English name for the third season of the year; "autumn" has been used since the fourteenth century. L: autumnus "autumn." Late 19th C.

Ava Y The origin of Ava is uncertain. It probably represents an Old German name-possibly a feminine form of the Old German male name Avi or Avo. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that Avi derives ultimately from OG: a/ "elf." Another possibility is that Ava arose as a variant of EVE; the two names have certainly been much confused. The ninth-century Saint Ava was a daughter of King Pepin the Younger of Aquitaine, while the eleventh-/twelfth-century poet Ava of Gottweig was the first known woman writer in the German language. A few examples of Ava and Ave are found in the ESW across the centuries, but it wasn't until the mid-nineteenth century that it finally began to take root. The Persian girl's name Ava means "voice" or "call." Bearers: American actress Ava Gardner (1922-90).

Avalon d Y The legendary island of Arthurian Romance. It was long associated with apples and probably derives from CC: *aballon- "apple orchard." It was here that Arthur was taken after the Battle of Camlann to recover from his wounds. In the late twelfth century, it became associated with Glastonbury, after monks at the abbey there claimed to have discovered the remains of Arthur and Guinevere, along with an inscription stating that they had been buried in Avalonia. Although this burial was almost certainly a ruse on the part of the monks of Glastonbury to raise funds to rebuild their abbey (it had burnt down in 1182), Glastonbury and Avalon have now become firmly intertwined. Where Avalon truly lies-if it has ever really existed in the physical world is still a matter of considerable debate. And Glastonbury is certainly a very special place. Late 19th C.

Avelina ? Anglicized as Aveline, Avelina probably evolved as a double diminutive form of AVA + the suffixes -el and -in. It was taken to Britain by the Normans. Revived 19th C. Aveline's Hole is a cave in the Mendip Hills in Somerset, England, and the site of the earliest cemetery found in Britain, containing numerous Pagan remains which are up to ten thousand years old. Var: EILEEN, EVELINA, EVELYN; Avaline, Avelyn (hist).

Avenel A medieval name, deriving from the same uncertain source as AVA and AVICE. Its occurrence from the sixteenth century onwards is probably an adoption of the surname which arose from it. Var: Avenell.

Avens c~ 2 The delicate wood avens, also known as herb bennet, has long been used in herbal medicine. It has been used to treat dog and snake bites in the past, because of the belief that it could protect against snakes and rabid dogs. It was also believed to have the power to drive away malevolent spirits. The surname Avens is probably a variant of Evans, deriving from EVAN. 19th C.

Aventurine Y c? Originally, aventurine was the name given to goldstone-a type of brownish-colored glass flecked with gold-manufactured in Italy since the seventeenth century. Italian: avventura "by chance"-alluding to the fact it was discovered by accident. In the nineteenth century, it gave its name to a variety of quartz which had a similar appearance. Aventurine is considered a good stone for absorbing environmental and electromagnetic pollution, and restoring peace of mind.

Averil 2 Gc A form of EVERILD found from the early modern period, especially in Yorkshire and the North. It returned to more general use in the nineteenth century, being confused somewhat with AVRIL. Averil is occasionally met with as a male name, but this is due to the surname, which did come from OF: Avrill "April." Var: Averel. Bearers: Averil Ives is one of the pseudonyms of the prolific British writer and centenarian Ida Pollock (b. 1908).

Avery c~ Y Late medieval form of ALFRED. In the past, it was mostly a male name but has always occasionally been used as a female name too, probably as a variant of APHRA. It featured as the name of Fern's brother in E. B. White's children's book Charlotte's Web (1952).

Avicenna c~ The name of the great Muslim philosopher deriving from Abu Sina, a contraction of his Arabic name Abu `Ali al-Husayn ibn `Abd-Allah ibn Sm. Ar: abu "father"-the meaning of sina is unknown.

Avila 2 Old German name from which AVELINA, EVELINA, and EVELYN derive. Avila itself is a diminutive of AVA. It came into use in the

ESW in the nineteenth century, when it was taken up by Roman Catholics in honor of sixteenth-century St. Teresa of Avila.

Avis Y Popularly derived from L: avis "a bird," Avis is in fact of Germanic origin although its original meaning is uncertain. It developed from the older form Aveza, itself probably derived from AVA. Alternatively, it may have evolved-like HAWIS-from Old German Hadewidis. It was introduced into Britain by the Normans as Avice, and was a popular name in medieval times. Even in the Middle Ages, however, it was associated with avis, and by the end of the sixteenth century, "Avis" was the usual form. The Latin expression rara avis "a rare bird" is still sometimes used to describe something highly unusual or prodigious. Var: Avys, Avicia. Avis Everhard is the narrator in Jack London's science fiction masterpiece *The Iron Heel* (1908).

Aviva y A largely Jewish name, deriving from Heb: aviv "the spring." Used since the early 20th C, probably inspired by Tel Aviv in Israel (meaning "spring hill"), so named in 1910.

Avocet e ? The avocet is an elegant wading bird, made famous as the badge of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, having been successfully reintroduced into Britain after previously becoming extinct there. It: Avocetta or Avosetta < L: avis "bird."

Avon a Y The name of numerous rivers, including the well-known Avon in Warwickshire, upon which Shakespeare's Stratford is situated. The Latin name was Abona meaning simply "river" in Brythonic. Used since at least the nineteenth century. Early examples may represent adoptions of the surname as a given name, which seems to derive from the rivers. The name is probably now most associated with the door-to-door cosmetics company. Bearers: Kerr Avon usually called just Avon-a principal character in the British television science-fiction series *Blake's 7* (1978-81).

Avonia ? A nineteenth-century coinage based on AVON. It dates to around the 1860s.

Avril Y Perhaps influenced by AVERIL-or even starting out as a variant spelling-Avril has mostly been used in reference to Fr: avril "April." Late

19th C. Bearers: Avril Lavigne (b. 1984), the Canadian singer.

Awel e 2 Welsh/Cornish: awel "breeze." Late 19th C.

Awen ? A Welsh name, deriving from the Welsh and Cornish awen "inspiration," "poetic gift," and "muse." Awen is an important concept in modern Druidry, often symbolized by three points with three rays emanating from them surrounded by three concentric circles. Late 19th C. Var: Awena.

Axe c~ ? As well as being an ancient tool and weapon of war, the axe was a sacred symbol in many ancient cultures. The double axe was particularly revered in Minoan Crete, where it was used by a priestess in certain religious rites. In Rome, an axe head was used to part the hair of a bride on her wedding day, while the fasces were a bundle of birch rods with an axe head, symbolizing the state and its power and functioning in the Roman Republic rather like a modern flag. To the Vikings, the battle axe was a symbol of status, dignity and power. Amongst the Yoruba, the oshe (another double-headed axe) is the symbol of the God Shango. The word derives from OE: sex and is cognate with Gr: axine "battle axe" and probably also L: ascea "axe." Axe is also the name of two rivers in South-West England. The name of at least one of them in Roman times was Uxella, from CC: *ow(x)selo- "high" or "elevated." There is also a surname, deriving from the river. 19th C.

Axel 5\ This is generally regarded as the Scandinavian form of ABSALOM-which it is-but there is also an English surname, deriving from ASKETIL, which is responsible for examples of Axel and variant Axell as given names in the ESW from the late seventeenth century. Bearers: Count Axel von Fersen (1755-1810), a Swedish statesman and the alleged lover of Marie Antoinette; Axel Foley, the central character of Beverly Hills Cop (1984) and subsequent films.

Aya 2 Japanese name-aya "color" and "pattern."

Ayame Y Japanese name-ayame "iris," specifically, the blue flag.

Ayana Y Ayana has more than one origin and meaning. In Sanskrit ayana literally means "going"; as such it is used to mean "way" and also "solstice." Both Ayana and the related Ayani are used as given names in India. Ayani is also the Malayalam word for the wild jack tree, an evergreen tree of the southern states of India.

Ayanna ? A name first used in the USA in the early 1970s. It is often said to mean "beautiful flower" in an African language-variously given as Somali, Swahili, and Amharic-but this seems to be fictitious. It may possibly be related to Somali ayaan "luc" or "day," or Swahili aya "verse," but it is more likely that it arose simply as a variant of ANNA, perhaps influenced by the Sanskrit AYANA. The word ayanna does mean "where" in Ilokano (a language of the Philippines), and it is also the first letter of the Sinhalese alphabet.

Ayberk c Turkish name-ay "moon" + berk "strong," "solid," and "rugged."

Aydin c~ Turkish name-aydin "well-lighted." When used of people, it carries the sense of "enlightened" and "intellectual."

Aygul y Turkish name-ay "moon" + Sul "rose."

Ayla Y Ayla-pronounced "I-la"-is originally a Turkish girl's name, an adoption of ayla "halo," used specifically of the halo around the moon. It is also used in reference to the areola around a nipple. In recent times, it has also been claimed as a name of Hebrew origin, with a derivation from elah meaning "oak tree" or "terebrith tree." However, most use in the ESW has been since the 1980s, after it was used as the name of the chief protagonist in Jean M. Auel's Earth's Children series (1980-2011). Auel is said to have coined the name when watching a documentary about Native South Americans as they paddled down the Amazon chanting, "Aaaayla! Aaaayla!"

Aylmer cc Old English: fEtelmaer-_,del "noble" + mcer "famous." A popular name before the Norman Conquest, it was reinforced afterwards by the similar Old German Agilmar-EGIL + mari "famous," brought by the Normans in the forms Ailemar and Eilemar. Var: Ailmer, Almer, Aymer, ELMER.

Aylwin c~ A variant of ALWIN. Revived 19th C. Some of its use may have been inspired by Theodore Watts-Dunton's prose romance Aylwin (1898), which was very popular in its day.

Ayn 2 Arabic name-`ain "a spring" or "well." The penname assumed by Russian-born author, screenwriter, and philosopher Ayn Rand (1905-82). Why Ayn chose it is uncertain. It seems to have been independent of the Arabic name; Ayn herself claimed it was Finnish, and it is possible that she had AINO in mind. It is thought, however, that Ayn may in fact derive from the Hebrew ayin "eye"-Rand's family was Jewish.

Aynia 2 An Irish fairy queen; the most powerful fairy in Ulster. It seems very likely that the name derives from that of the Pagan Goddess AINE. 20th C.

Aysel 2 Turkish name-ay "moon" + sel "torrent," referring to a swift and violent flood of water. A similar name is Aysu-ay + su "water," a word used in almost any context from fluids such as juice and sap to bodies of water such as streams, rivers, lakes, and the sea. It is also a type of embroidery pattern.

Ayu Y Malaysian name. Malay: ayu "beautiful."

Azadi y Algonquin: azadi "poplar."

Azalea Y The name of the shrub. Gr: azaleos "dry," referring either to the dry conditions in which it flourishes, or to its dry, brittle wood. Late 19th C.

Azali ? Swahili: azali "everlasting."

Azar 2 Persian name-azar "fire." The name of the ninth month of the Iranian calendar, corresponding with Sagittarius. The word descends from directly from Atar, the name of the Zoroastrian God of fire. Related names include Azarak "little fire," Azaran "fires," and Azardokht "daughter of fire." Azarafrouz "phoenix" (literally "illuminating fire") was the name of a prince in Ferdowsi of Tus's tenth-century epic, Shahnameh.

Azariah o~ Y Biblical name. Hebrew: "whom Yahweh aids." 16th C-fairly recently, it has started to be used for girls. Originally pronounced "az-a-RI-a," it is increasingly being pronounced "a-ZAH-ree-a," especially when used for girls. Var: Azarias, Azaria.

Azazel c' The meaning and significance of Azazel has been a knotty problem for etymologists and theologians alike for centuries. It features in the Bible, but it is unclear whether it was the name of the poor original scapegoat-literally a goat ritually driven off a precipice to atone for the "sins" of men-or some being to which it was being sent. Many traditions opt for the later, and equate Azazel with Satan.'The traditional etymology derives the name from Heb: azaz "rough" and "craggy" + el "(a) God." John Milton used the name in *Paradise Lost* (1667) for one of the rebel angels.

Azazel cc A Seraph in Byrons unfinished play *Heaven and Earth* (1821). Probably from AZAZEL.

Azelia ? A curious name which has a longer history than some might think.'There is an obscure biblical male name Azaliah meaning "preserved by (a) God" (in brine or vinegar?), which was adopted by Puritans in the seventeenth century. It was rare, however, and it is easy to see how it might have become confused with the more familiar female name ZILLAH.'This certainly seems to be the case, judging by examples such as Azillah, Azilla, Azella, and Azulah. Azelia itself first appears in the early nineteenth century, and may also have been influenced by Gr: azelia "freedom from jealousy" and AZALEA. Fr: Azelie.

Azenor Y A legendary sixth-century princess of Brest in Normandy.'The story goes that, falsely accused of adultery, she was locked in a chest and thrown into the sea, and there she gave birth to St. Budoc-a tale all very reminiscent of the birth of Perseus.'The origin of the name is uncertain. It is often said to be the Breton form of ELINOR, but it is more likely to represent a Celtic name, perhaps one containing the theonym ESUS.

Azesia 2 Epithet of Demeter and Persephone, though often used of Persephone alone.'The name probably derives from Gr: aze "dry dirt" or azaino "to dry or parch up."''The Ancient Greeks had a proverb: "Amaia looked for Azesia," referring to Demeter's long search for her daughter

after she had been kidnapped by Hades; it was used to mean anyone who took a long time to do something.

Azima 2 Swahili: azima "magic."

Azimuth (' Y The azimuth is the arc of the sky, from the zenith to the horizon. It derives from the Arabic as-sumut meaning "the ways," "the directions," and "the points of the compass." Late 20th C.

Aziz c~ Arabic name-'aziz "darling" and "precious." Fem: Aziza.

Azizi a Swahili name-azizi "treasure."

Azubah 2 A name borne by a couple of biblical characters. Heb: "forsaken." Early 17th C.'The Romani name Zuba probably derives from it.

Azura Y Medieval Latin form of AZURE. 20th C. Bearers: Azura Skye (b. 1981), the American actress.

Azure cc Y In medieval times, "azure" was another name for lapis lazuli, and it derives from the same source-Ar: (al-Jlazward < Persian lkjward "lapis lazuli." Later, azure became the name of the expensive pigment or dye made from the stone-familiar as the brilliant blue of medieval art, reserved for the vestments of the Virgin Mary-and then the color itself Early 20th C.

Azurite ' Y A blue carbonate of copper. Considered useful for spiritual development and expanding the mind, it is also said to be good for relieving stress and grief. Derives from AZURE.

Baal c? Principal God of the Phoenicians; his name means simply "lord" in Phoenician. His temple at Baalbek in Lebanon was one of the largest in the world, and remains an impressive sight to this day. The cult of Baal spread across Ancient Mesopotamia; in the Bible, Baal is portrayed as a principal rival of Yahweh. 19th C. Var: Ba'al.

Baalat Y The name of Baal's consort, meaning simply "lady" in Phoenician. Var: Ba'alat.

Baatar cc Mongolian name-baatar "hero."

Babar C? Persian: babar "tiger." Babar is also used in India, where it was borne by a fifteenth-century Mogul Emperor. Babar the Elephant (1931-), a series of children's books by Jean de Brunoff and his son Laurent, features a much-loved character of the name.

Babette ? French pet-form of ELIZABETH. 19th C. Babette's Feast (1988) is a film based on a short story by Karen Blixen.

Bacchus c? Another name for Dionysus. The name was used by the Romans to such an extent that most people think Bacchus is the Roman name for Dionysus. Actually, the Latin equivalent is Liber. Bacchus derives, like IACCHUS, from proto-Greek *FiFakho "to shout." Late 17th C.

Badger (' Y The reclusive mammal of woods and hedges, with a distinctive black and white head. CC: *tasgo- "badger" features in more than one attested Brythonic name from the Roman period, such as Icotasgus, Tasciovanus, and the God Moritasgus. The English word "badger" was a relatively late development, found from the sixteenth century-too late to be the source of the surname. The same is true of the unrelated word "badger" meaning "hawker." The surname, responsible for examples of Badger as a given name prior to the twentieth century, probably arose as the name of someone who made or sold bags.

Badhbh Y Badhbh is the modern Irish form of Badb, itself the Irish form of the Celtic Bodua, the name of an ancient war Goddess. By Roman times, the Celtic *bodwo- or *bodwo- meant "crow," but it is believed it acquired this meaning through the grim association of crows with the battlefield, which led to crows coming to symbolize the carnage of battle. Badhbh takes the form of a crow, and is regarded as one aspect of the Morrigan as a Triple Goddess (the others being Macha and Nemain).

Badr c~ Arabic name-badr "full moon." Var: Budur. Turk: Bedir.

Baeddau cc Diminutive of baedd "boar," this is an Old Welsh name, surviving as the name of a stream in South Wales. Early 20th C.

Baha c~ Arabic name-baba' "beauty" and "brilliance." Fem: Bahiyya.

Baia' Chinese name. Mand: bdi "white," "snowy," "bright," "clear," or "pure"; bai "cedar" or "cypress."

Bailey e 2 English surname. It derives in part from OF: bailli which originally meant "carrier" and later "manager"- i.e. a bailiff. The term baillie is still used in Scotland to refer to a type of magistrate. The surname's other origin is from the Old French term bail. This was used for the outer wall of a castle and "bailey" came to be used of both these defensive walls, and the courtyards within-a name, therefore, which has strong connotations of protection. 17th C. Var: Baillie; Bailee, Baileigh, Bailie, Baily, Baylee, Bayleigh, Baylie, Bayley (mod).

Baler cc Arabic name-bakr "young camel." According to Islamic tradition, Bakr was a name borne by the successor of Mohammed. Turk: Bekir.

Bala G~ Y There are two Indian names transliterated into English as Bala. San: bala "young" and "child," and bala "force," "power," and "strength." Dim: Balu J. Bala is also the name of a lake in Snowdonia and the name by which the town on its shores is also known. In Welsh, only the town is called Y Bala-"the efflux (of the lake)." The lake's Welsh name is Llyn Tegid. It was on the shores of Bala Lake that the Goddess Ceridwen first brewed the Awen.

Balder ' In Norse mythology, Baldr is the son of Odin and Frigg. When he was born, Frigg visited every living thing in the world, plant and animal, to swear an oath that they would never kill him. However, she forgot the mistletoe, and Loki tricked the blind God Hoder into firing an arrow made from mistletoe at him. Baldr was killed-but resurrected. The name is usually interpreted as deriving from ON: bal "fire," in particular "funeral pyre," but actually baldr is a poetic form of ballr "brave," "dangerous," and "dire." Var: Baldur.

Baldomero 6 Spanish name deriving from OG: bald "bold" + meri "famous." It was taken to Spain by the Franks in the early medieval period.

Baldric c' A medieval name, deriving from OG: bald "bold" + ricja. Since the 1980s, it has become thoroughly associated with the name of the dim-witted servant and sidekick in the British television series Blackadder (1983-89).

Baldwin cc Baldwin derives from two sources, Bealdwine-OE: beald "bold" + wine "friend"-and the Old German cognate Baldavin. Baldwin was popular in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries across Britain, though grew rare afterwards, with later use more likely surname related. Var: Baldewyn, Balduin, Baldwyn, Bauduin (hist). W: MALDWYN.

Balm (' 2 Deriving from BALSAM, the word "balm" was originally used of the resin exuded from the Balm of Gilead. It later was used of a preparation used in embalming the dead, then for any aromatic oil or ointment used for healing; since the sixteenth century, it has been used for anything which is healing or soothing. It has been used of *Melissa ojiicinalis* since the fifteenth century-now usually called lemon balm. Variouslly ascribed to Jupiter and the Moon, lemon balm is ruled by Cancer. It has been valued since ancient times, when it was recommended for planting near bee-hives to act as a sort of beacon to bring bees home again. Its medicinal uses are numerous-it lowers fever and improves digestion, it is anti-viral, anti-bacterial, and makes a good insect-repellent. A tea made from the fresh leaves lifts spirits. In magic, lemon balm is used to work spells of love and healing.'There is also a surname Balm, from Balne in Yorkshire-L: balneum "bathing place." 19th C.

Balsam e Y Latin: balsamum "balsam-tree"-i.e. the Balm of Gilead (its modern name). Balsam is also used of its gum. A tree of Venus and Water, it is used in magic for its potency in matters of love, protection, and healing. In herbal medicine, it is used to treat various complaints from coughs to rheumatic pain. The English surname Balsam-largely responsible for instances of Balsam as a given name-probably derives from Balsham in Cambridgeshire. 'Ibis means "homestead of Ba lli"; Baelli is an Old English name, possibly from bcel "fire" and "flame."

Balthasar c~ Meaning "may Baal safeguard the king" in Babylonian (Bel-Barra-usur), the name features as Belshazzar in the Old Testament. In early Latin and Greek editions, it appears as Baltasar. By the eleventh century, Balthasar had become the name of one of the fabled `Three Kings/Wise Men. Their supposed relics were brought to Cologne from Milan in the latter half of the twelfth century, after which Cologne became a centre of a cult surrounding them and a major pilgrimage destination. Var: Balthazar. It: Baldassare, Ger: Balthasar, Balzer, Hun: Boldizsar.

Baltic (' Y The name of the north European sea, which also gives its name to the "Baltic states"-i.e. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Its etymology is uncertain; it may be from the Germanic belt meaning "belt," from the Germanic *bal jo-z, or its Latin cognate balteus-referring to its belt-like topography. 19th C.

Bambi Y Associated with the 1942 Disney film based on a 1921 book by Felix Salten about a baby fawn. 20th C.

Banadl c~ ? Welsh: banadl "broom" (the plant). In Welsh mythology, Blodeuedd was fashioned from the flowers of oak, broom, and meadowsweet. Bearers: Banadl (5th C), King of Powys.

Banadlwedd y Welsh: BANADL + gwedd "face." Banadlwedd was the name of a daughter of King Banadl of Powys.

Banbha Y An Irish Goddess, used as a poetic name for Ireland. It is probably connected to Sc Ga: banbh "land unplowed for a year," but also bears a strong resemblance to 01: banb "piglet." Late 20th C.

Banquo cc Tragic figure of Shakespeare's Macbeth, who was murdered by his erstwhile friend. The origin is uncertain, but even the historical integrity of the man is questioned. It is quite probable he was invented by a sixteenth-century Scottish academic. 20th C

Bao Y cc Chinese name. Mand: bao "flower calyx" and "luxuriant"; bdo "hail"; bao "jewel" and "precious," bao "shower of rain," "leopard," and "panther." Bao Bao means "darling" and "baby." Bao is also a Vietnamese name meaning "to support" (hence one of its less attractive everyday meanings: "bag").

Baptist cc Greek: baptistes "one who baptizes." In some ways, Baptist is about as Christian as a name can get. The Greek term refers specifically to John the Baptist. However, the verb baptizd-from which it derives-predates Christianity. It meant simply "to dip (in water)." Water is, understandably, regarded as a significant means of purification, and

has long been used as such in all spiritual traditions, so even Baptist could be "reclaimed" by the Pagan community. Baptist has long been a favorite name in Catholic lands, often combined with the name John, such as the Italian Giambattista and the French Jean-Baptiste. In the ESW, it first appeared after the Reformation, used among Catholics. Ger: Baptist, Port: Batista, It: Battista, Sp: Bautista.

Barak cc' Arabic name-barakah "blessing." Var: Barack. Bearers: American President Barack Obama (b. 1961).

Baraka Y cc Swahili: baraka "blessing" and "blessings."

Barbara Y Greek: barbaros "strange" and "foreign." Barbara was a common name across medieval Europe because of the popularity of the third-century virgin St. Barbara, a patron saint of architects and engineers, who was invoked against thunder and lightning. Even the Catholic Church has admitted there's little evidence for a historical figure behind her, removing her from the calendar of saints in 1969, though she is still revered by many Catholics. There may well be a Goddess behind her; as a virgin saint associated with the military, Athene/Minerva is a possibility. Or, as her feast day is on December 4th-the same day as the Bona Dea in Rome- she

might be linked with any of the Goddesses equated with the Bona Dea. In Nigeria, she is associated with the Goddess Oya. Dim: Babs; Barbie (mod). Var: Barbary (hist); Barbra (mod). Jr Ga: Bairbre; Baibin (dim), Sc Ga: Barabal, Fr: Bathe; Barhot (dim), Sw: Barbro, Hun: Borbala, Ru: Varvara. Bearers: Barbara Zdunk (1769-1811), a Polish woman regarded as the last person executed as a Witch in Europe-although she was actually convicted for arson (of which she was almost certainly innocent); Barbara Walker (b. 1930), the American feminist author of books on mythology and spirituality.

Barclay c~ A famous Scottish surname. It probably comes from Berkeley in Gloucestershire (OE: beorc "birch" + leak), from which the founder of the family William de Berchelai, a twelfth-century High Chamberlain of Scotland is thought to have originated. The English branch of the family-who spell the name Berkeley-still reside at Berkeley Castle. Var: Berkeley. 17th C.

Barcud The Welsh name for the red kite. Var: Bascutan.

Bard e Y Bard's use as a given name in the past probably represented a transferred use of the surname, which in many cases derives from OF: barde "horse armor," used metonymically of someone who made it. Some Bards do, however, derive from the Gaelic bard "a bard."The Bards of old belonged to the Druid brotherhood; they were the weavers of stories and song, who preserved the history and legend of their people, the genealogies of their kings and nobles. Bards are not unique to the Celtic lands; close parallels exist among the Vikings, Anglo-Saxons, Greeks, and Indians. A number of important old bardic works survive, such as the Norse sagas, Beowulf, The Odyssey, and The Iliad, and the Ramayana. In Tolkiens The Hobbit, Bard is the name of the hero who kills the dragon Smaug. W: Bardd. 18th C.

Bardan e Irish Gaelic name-bard "bard" + dim. suffix -dn. Var: Barddan.

Bardo e An eleventh-century German Archbishop. The origin is unclear; it may represent a Latinized form of a hypocoristic name beginning with Bard- such as BARDOLPH. Pardo is also a term used in Tibetan Buddhism. It literally means "intermediate state."There are six bardo

states, starting with the Bardo of this Life and culminating with the Bardo of Existence. Bardo di Bardi is the name of a character in George Elliot's *Romilda* (1862-63).

Bardolph e Old English: Beorhtwulf-beorht + wulfwas reinforced when its Old German cognate was introduced by the Normans. Var: Bardolf.

Bari J Turkish name-baric "peace" and "reconciliation."

Barnaby e Common English version of Barnabas, the Greek form of an Aramaic name meaning "son of exhortation" or "son of consolation." St. Barnabas was a companion of St. Paul, and his cult was popular in medieval times. Early 13th C. Dim: Barney, Barny. Hun: Barnabas; Barna (dim), Pol: Barnaba, Dut, Ger: Barnabas, Cz: Barnabas, Fr: Barnabe, Sp: Bernabe. Bearers: Barnabas Collins, a vampire in the American Gothic soap opera *Dark Shadows* (1966-71). *Barnaby Rudge* (1841) is a novel by Dickens.

Barrette An English surname. It is sometimes said to derive from Old German Beroald-bero "bear" + wald "rule," which was introduced by the Normans in the forms Berold and Berolt, but this was rare and there is not a great deal of evidence for its use. A more likely source is the OF: barat "deceit," "fraud," "trouble," "sorrow," and "pain." 17th C.

Barrex e The name of a Celtic God equated with the Roman Mars, and known from an inscription found in Carlisle, England. It probably derives from CC: *barro- "Pont" and "top" + *r-g- "king"-both elements found in personal names in the period.

Barrington g Adoption of the surname which derives from one of a number of places of the name meaning "settlement of BEORN's people". In Ireland, it is used as an English form of the surname O Bearain "descendant of Bearan." Bearan is an Old Irish name or byname deriving from bior "point," 'Javelin' + dim. suffix -dn. 17th C.

Barry e Barry was first used as a given name in Ireland in the seventeenth century as an Anglicized form of the Gaelic name Bearach, meaning "spear-like." A variant of this is Barach, a name borne in Irish myth by a

chief Druid of Ulster. It is likely, however, that Barry's use elsewhere prior to the twentieth century represents an adoption of the surname, which arose from a number of sources. Some are also Irish: the Anglicized versions of O Beargha (from Bearach), and O Baire-Bairre being a short form of the Gaelic Fionnbarr (see Finbar), sometimes written Barra. Another source of the surname Barry was OF: barri "rampart," which was later applied to a settlement under the ramparts of a castle. The Scottish Barry-often written Barrie-derives from Barry in Angus. The Welsh comes in part from ap Harry meaning "son of Harry," and in part from the island of Barry off the coast of South Wales near Cardiff. Barry island takes its name from the W: bar "bar," in this context referring to a bar of sand. Var: Barrie. Dim: Baz, Bazza (mod).

Bartholomew c~ Biblical name. Heb: "son of Talmi" Talmi meaning "abounding in furrows." St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus's apostles; it was in fact his patronymic-the equivalent of a surname. His actual name was Nathaniel. He was a very popular saint in medieval times, and Bartholomew and its vernacular forms Bartle and Battler were common. In Ireland, it is strongly linked with PARTHALAN. Today, it is probably most associated with Bart Simpson of the American television animated series The Simpsons (1989-). Dim: Bat, Bart, Bartie, Barty, Tolly. Jr Ga: Bairtimead, Fr: Barthelemy, Ger: Bartholomaus, Dut: Bartholomeus, Bartel, Romani: Bartholoways, Pol: Bartłomiej, Bartosz, Sp: Bartolome, It: Bartolomeo, Fin: Perttu, Ru Varfolomei.

Bartimaeus c? The name of a minor character in the New Testament. It is the Latin form of the Greek Bartimaios, itself a Hellenizing of the Aramaic Bar-Timai-bar "son" + timai "admiration." 18th C. Var: Bartemius. Bearers: Bartemius "Barry" Crouch, a dark wizard in the Harry Potter series; Bartimaeus, a djinni, central character of Jonathan Stroud's Bartimaeus series (2003-05)

Barton ' English surname. OE: bere "barley" + tun. 17th C. Dim: Bart.

Baruch c? Biblical name meaning "blessed" in Hebrew. 16th C.

Basalt a' The name of an exceptionally hard rock. Its name derives from the Latin basaltis, used of a very hard, dark type of marble. The Roman writer

Pliny the Elder said this derived from an African word. The columnar formations at the Giant's Causeway in Ireland and Fingal's Cave in Scotland are made of basalt.

Basil? Greek: *basileos* "kingly." The name of a fourth-century saint; use of the name in the Middle Ages was in his honor. Basil is also the name of the herb, deriving from the Latin *basilica*. This is the feminine of *basiliscus* "basilisk"-the fantastical monster-and comes ultimately from Gr: *basiliskos*. The most basic meaning of this is "prince" or "chieftain," but it was also used of a type of snake (possibly the Egyptian cobra), the wren, a sea-fish-as well as the mythical beastie. It was a belief in ancient times that basil was an antidote to a basilisk's bite. This association probably arose through the similarity of the word *basiliskos* with the Greek name for basil-*basilikon*, from the adjective *basilikos* "kingly." It has been suggested that basil acquired its original Greek name because it was used for a preparation of some kind reserved for royalty. Basil itself is a plant of contradictions, a symbol of both love and hate. Ruled by Mars and Fire, and under the governance of Scorpio, it was held in suspicion in the seventeenth century, credited with breeding scorpions in the brain when smelled. It was also believed that a sprig of basil left under a plant pot would turn into a scorpion. Culpeper warned that rue wouldn't grow near it "and we all know that rue is as great an enemy to poison as any that grows." Its association with Witches didn't help either-one of its traditional names is the Witch's herb. Basil is still used magically in divination, spells of love and protection, and to attract wealth. Despite the caution of herbalists in the past, basil is now much valued in herbal medicine for its anti-bacterial properties. It can be used to lower fever, treat migraines, cure insomnia, and raise the spirits, as well as help clear up acne and soothe insect bites. Occasionally, the name is found in use for girls, either as simplified form of *BASILIA*, or as a direct adoption of the herb. Dim: *Baz*. Var: *Bazil*. Ru: *Vasili*, Hun: *VASZOLY*. Bearers: Basil Rathbone (1892-1967), the South African actor; Basil Wilby (b. 1930), the birth name of esoteric writer Gareth Knight; Basil Fawlty, the principal character in the British television comedy series *Fawlty Towers* (1975-79).

Basilia Y Feminine form of *BASIL*. It was more popular than its male counterpart in Britain in the Middle Ages, and it, rather than Basil, is

responsible for surnames such as Baseley, Bazeley, and Basil. Var: Basilly (hist). Fr: Basilie.

Basma y Arabic name-basmah "smile." Var: Basmah.

Bassanio The name of the hero in Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice. Its origins are unclear; presumably, it was inspired by the Latin Bassianus. This features in Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus, which predates it. Bassianus was the cognomen of two infamous Roman Emperors, Caracalla (188-217 CE) and Elagabalus (c. 203-222), and there are a couple of saints of the name too. It means "belonging to Bassus"; Bassus, another Roman cognomen, probably derived from the Greek bassos "fox." 19th C.

Bassareus c? Epithet of Dionysus. Gr: bassara "fox."

Bast 2 Also transliterated as Ubasti, Baser, and Bastet, Bast is the name of the cat-headed Egyptian Goddess. 20th C.

Bastian c' A shortened form of SEBASTIAN, used principally in Germany. Dut: Bastiaan; Bas (dim), It: Bastiano, Fr: Bastien. Bastian is the name of one of the main characters of Michael Ende's novel The Neverending Story (1979) and the 1984 film of the same name. 16th C.

Batari 2 Indonesian name. Indonesian: batari "Goddess." Batari also means "Goddess" in Malay.

Bathsheba Y Biblical name. Heb: "daughter of satiety, voluptuousness, or the oath"; borne by the wife of the famous King David. 16th C. Bearers: Bathsheba Everdene, the heroine of 'Thomas Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd (1874).

Bature c? A Hausa name given to boys born on a Tuesday.

Baucis Y In Greek mythology, Baucis was the name of an elderly peasant woman who, with her husband Philemon, showed great hospitality to Zeus and Hermes as they traveled in mortal guise. To reward them, Zeus turned their little house into a temple and promised to grant them whatever they desired. Philemon replied that he and Baucis wanted nothing more than to

be the priest and priestess of the temple and asked that neither out-lived the other. Their wish was granted, and in the moment of their death, Zeus transformed them into an oak and a linden tree, growing side by side forever more. Gr: baukos "prudish." 19th C.

Baxter Y c~ English surname. OE: b&cestre "female baker." 17th C.

Bay Y a The bay laurel or bay tree has been prized since ancient times for its culinary and medicinal value, and spiritual associations. In Greece and Rome it was considered sacred to Apollo, and victors in the Delphic Games were crowned with a wreath of bay. The Delphic Oracle chewed upon bay leaves prior to prophesying, and it is still used by Witches today to increase psychic powers. Bay leaves placed beneath pillows are said to induce prophetic dreams. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, and governed by Leo, it was regarded as a powerful herb for countering Witchcraft in the seventeenth century. It is thought to protect against lightning, and is still valued for its protective qualities today. Bay trees planted close to a house are thought to protect the inhabitants from illness. The name comes from the Latin baca meaning "berry" through the old French baie, and was originally applied to the berries of the bay-tree. It came to be applied to the tree itself only in the sixteenth century. There is a surname Bay, which derives in part from the Old English names Beaga c~ and Beage Y, which derive from beag meaning "garland," "crown," and "treasured thing." Another source is the Old French bai meaning "reddish-brown" (from which the color "bay," used principally of horses, derives). 19th C.

Baya 2 c~ Spanish: baya "berry" (ultimate derivation the same as BAY). In Alabama, baya means "oak"; in Lakota, "coyote"; and in the Filipino language Kapampangan, "ember" and "coal." Its meaning in some African languages is less attractive. In Swahili, for instance, it means "bad" and "wicked." 20th C.

Bayaran cc Malay: bayaran "compensation' and "payment."

Bayram ' Turkish name-bayram "festival." The word is used of both religious and secular celebrations.

Bear c~ Y There is quite a lot of evidence for bear-cults across Pagan Europe in ancient times. A Celtic fertility Goddess called Artio is known, and Artemis herself (whose name may even be connected with arktos, meaning "bear") has a strong link to bears. At her sanctuary at Brauron,

young girls approaching marriageable age served her for a year and were known as "little she-bears." The word bear evolved from the OE: bera, cognate with ON: bjorn and OG: bero, and it may also be cognate with the Latin ferus "wild." British celebrity cook Jamie Oliver named his son Buddy Bear Maurice in 2010, while Bear Blu is Alicia Silverstone's son, born in 2011.

Bearnas y Scots Gaelic form of BERENICE. In Scotland, it is sometimes treated as a feminine form of BERNARD.

Beata Y Latin: beatus "happy." 12th C. Ger: Beate. Masc: Beatus.

Beathag Y Diminutive of Sc Ga: beath "life." Used in Scotland since the Middle Ages. BETHIA was sometimes used in the past to render it into English.

Beathan c~ Diminutive of Sc Ga: beath "life." In use in Scotland since the Middle Ages, it has sometimes been Anglicized as Bean or rendered with BENJAMIN since the seventeenth century.

Beatrix y Deriving from the Latin beatus "happy," Beatrix carries a meaning along the lines of "she who makes (me/ us/people) happy." It was the name of a shadowy fourth-century saint, supposedly martyred under Diocletian. 12th C. Var: Betrys, Bettrys (hist); Beatrice. It: Beatrice, BICE, Fr: Beatrice, Port, Sp: Beatriz, Sc Ga: Beitiris W: Betrys. Dim: Beattie, Bea, Beatty, BEE, Trixie. Bearers: Beatrice di Folco Portinari (1266-90), Dante's muse, who acts as his guide in Paradise in The Divine Comedy (1308-21); Beatrix Laing (fl. 1704), a victim in the Pittenweem Witch trials; (Helen) Beatrix Potter (1866-1943), the English children's writer and illustrator. Beatrice is one of the most popular characters in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing.

Beau c ? French: beau "handsome" and "great." Beau was used originally as a sobriquet for dashing adventurers such as "Beau" George Brummell (1778-1840). It featured as such in P. C. Wren's *Beau Geste* (1924).

Another fictional Beau is Beau Wilkes in Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. It is first found as a genuine boy's name in the late nineteenth century, and in the twentieth century, it has also been used for girls, even though beau is masculine. Var: BO.

Beauty 2 The English word "beauty" derives ultimately from the Latin *beatitudo* meaning "happiness" and "blessedness." "Beauty and the Beast" is the usual English title of the traditional fairy-tale, first recorded by Gabrielle-Suzanne Villeneuve in 1740 as *La Belle et La Bete*. Late 19th C.

Bechan Y Old Welsh name, deriving from an older form of Welsh back meaning "small," thus carrying the meaning of "little small one." According to legend, one of the many daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog bore the name. 20th C.

Bechulle Y Sometimes called a Witch and sometimes a Druid, Bechulle was a daughter of Flidhais. The first element of her name derives from *01*: be "woman" and "lady" (found largely only poetic contexts), the second is less clear. It may be coil "slender" or perhaps cuil "fly." Var: Be Chuille, Becuille.

Beck cc Y An English word for a little stream or brook, deriving from the Old Norse *bekkr* "stream." It is found particularly in the North of England and parts of Scotland. The surname has a number of origins; sometimes it is the stream "beck." In other cases, it derives from places called Bec in France, such as Bec-Hellouin. There was also an Old English name *Beocca*. This may be from *bece* "beech." Late 17th C. See also Rebecca.

Becket English surname; it arose as a term of affection from OF: bee "beak" + dim. suffix -et. The Archbishop of Canterbury St. Thomas a Becket (1118-70) was murdered by two opportunistic knights who overheard King Henry II's exasperated cry of, "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" Or so the story goes, anyway. The murder turned Thomas into a martyr and a saint, still revered by Catholics and Anglicans in Britain. 16th C. Var: Beckett.

Bedelia Y Eighteenth-century Latinate elaboration of Biddy-a pet-form of BRIDGET. Used outside Ireland since the nineteenth century. Var: Bidelia.

Bedivere e Anglicized form of the Welsh Bedwyr- bedw "birch" + gwyr "man." In Arthurian legend, Bedivere is a Knight of the Round Table. It is he who returns Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake after the death of Arthur. Var: Bedevere.

Bedwen Y Welsh: bedwen "birch." Bedwen Mai is Welsh for "maypole." Late 19th C.

Bedwyn a' Old English: bedwinde "bindweed." The name of a village in Wiltshire. In Wales, it is treated as a masculine form of BEDWEN. Late 19th C.

Bee Y c~ Despite its sting, the bee is a much beloved creature, cherished for the honey it produces and respected for the important job it does of pollinating flowers. A summer day in a garden is not complete without the gentle, mesmeric sound of a bee buzzing about its business. Bees are symbolic of hard work and cooperation, living and working as they do in hives containing thousands of others. Bees are also strongly associated with the Divine. The Ancient Egyptians believed bees spontaneously came into being from the tears of the sun God Ra. In many traditions, the bee is also symbolic of the soul. The word comes from OE: beo "bee," and has cognates across the Germanic languages. Its ultimate source is thought to be a PIE word meaning "to fear" and thus "to quiver." As a given name, Bee is mostly regarded as a short form for BEATRIX. However, there is also a surname Bee meaning "bee," which probably arose as a nickname, and is the likely source of early examples of Bee as a given male name. Late 17th C.

Beech Y a The beech tree is queen of the woods, the consort of the oak. Gentle and wise, the beech has long been associated with literature and learning; it is even cognate with the word "book." It is the Phagos of some Ogham systems-although it does not appear in all. The surname Beech, like other surnames derived from trees, referred originally to someone who lived near a beech tree. 18th C.

Beelzebub c~ Beelzebub is usually believed to be a Philistine God, whose name has become synonymous with the Christian Devil. In Hebrew, his name means "lord of the flies." It may be, however, that Beelzebub was a title or surname of another God-perhaps Baal-under which he was worshipped at Ekron. 20th C.

Befana Y In Italy, Befana is the name of the Italian Witch who delivers presents to children on January 6-the Christian Feast of the Epiphany. This marks the occasion when the Three Kings/Wise Men were said to have visited the baby Jesus. Befana is a corruption Epifania-Italian for EPIPHANY.

Begonia 2 The name of the tender flowering plant, said to have originated in Jamaica, which was named after the French botanist Michel Begon (1638-1710). His surname probably derives from the French beguin, a name applied to a member of a particular religious sect active in the thirteenth century, and derived from the man responsible for starting it-the mid-twelfth-century Lambert le Begue. Le begue means "stutterer." Some of its use may have been as a variant of the Spanish Begona, the Spanish name for Bilbao, which came into use as a given name from one of the titles of the Virgin Mary-Nuestra Senora de Begona "our lady of Bilbao." Late 19th C. Largely Romani.

Beibhinn Y Old Irish: be "woman" + find "white" and "fair." Beibhinn is the name of the mother and sister of Brian Born. It fell out of use in Ireland after the Middle Ages, but has since been revived. Sometimes Anglicized as Bevin or rendered by Vivien. Var: Bebhinn, Bebhionn, Bebinn, Beibhinn. In Macphersons Ossian Cycles, it appears as Vevina.

Beige 2 The name of the color, adopted as a given name in recent years, possibly inspired by the very similar Paige. The word is French in origin and was originally used of undyed cloth. 20th C.

Bel Y The name of two unrelated Gods. The first is a form of BAAL used in Babylon, the second is another name for the Celtic BELENUS. Bel is also short for a number of girls' names containing the element bel, such as BELINDA and ISABELLA. 19th C.

Bela c' A traditional Hungarian name. Its etymology is uncertain, but it may be Hun: *bel* "internal parts," "organs," and "heart" + dim. suffix *-a*. It may also plausibly derive from the Slavic *belo* "white." Bearers: four medieval kings of Hungary; Bela Bartok (1881-1945), the Hungarian composer.

Belen Y A Spanish girl's name deriving from the biblical BETHLEHEM, and used in Spain to describe Nativity displays. 20th C.

Belenus An important Celtic God, who is also known as BEL. CC: **bel(l)-* "strong" and "powerful," or **belo-* "bright." In the form *Belinus*, Geoffrey of Monmouth records him in *Historia Regum Britanniae* (c. 1136) as a legendary king of Britain. He survived in Welsh myth as *Beli Mawr*- "Beli the Great." Var: *Belenos*.

Beletili Y Mesopotamian Mother Goddess. Akkadian: *beltu* "lady" and "mistress" + *ilu* "a God." Identified with *Ninhursag*.

Beletseri Y The Mesopotamian Goddess of the Underworld, known as the "Scribe of the World." Akkadian: *beltu* "lady" and "mistress" + *seru* "steppe" and "open country." It was believed that restless ghosts haunted such landscapes.

Belinda Y Belinda's origins are Germanic-but far from clear. The second element is either *linde* "serpent" or *lindi* "soft" and "tender," while the first is uncertain. It may possibly be cognate with ON: *bot* "remedy"-the Old German form of the name was *Betlindis*. The name occurs in the *Charlemagne Romances* as the wife of Orlando, but it did not come into general use until the seventeenth century, when it was first used in fiction, most notably by Henry Purcell in his opera *Dido and Aeneas* (1688 or earlier) and Alexander Pope in "*The Rape of the Lock*" (1712). It is clear that, from that time on, it has been regarded as a combination of the French *belle* "beautiful" with the ending *-inda*, very popular in general with seventeenth-century literati. Maria Edgeworth's 1801 novel *Belinda* did much to popularize the name in the nineteenth century. Dim: BEL, LINDA, Binda.

Belisama Y A Gaulish Goddess of light, associated in classical times with *Minerva*. CC: **bel(l)-* "strong" and "powerful" + superlative suffix **-sam-*

(i. e. "most powerful) or *samo- "summer."

Bella, Belle Y Bella has been used since the eighteenth century as a pet-form of names ending in -bella, such as Isabella and Arabella. Its similarity to the Latin, Italian, and Spanish bella "pretty" has not gone unnoticed either. The same can be said of Belle, with its resemblance to the French. Belle is the name used in the original French version of the fairy-tale "Beauty and the Beast"-La Belle et La Bete (1749), and Beauty is often called Belle in English-language versions. Isabella "Bella" Swan is the heroine of Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series (2005-08).

Belladonna Y Another name for deadly nightshade, which occurs in the plant's botanical name *Atropa belladonna*. It is commonly derived from the Italian bella donna "beautiful lady," an apt name, as it is indeed a very attractive climbing plant, with pretty purple fuchsia-like flowers in the early summer, and bright red berries in the fall. One legend surrounding how the name came about is the belief that at certain times of the year it takes the form of an enchantress who is extremely beautiful, but exceptionally dangerous to look at. However, the true source of the name may be BELLONARIA; Pagan priests in Roman times drank an infusion made from this plant before invoking the Goddess Bellona. Late 19th C. Bearers: Belladonna Took, mother of Bilbo Baggins, in Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.

Bellamy c~ y English surname. Fr: beau (bel before a vowel) "fair," "handsome," and "great" + ami "friend." 17th C.

Bellanger A medieval reworking of BERENGER, giving it the appearance of deriving from the French beau (bel) "fine," "beautiful," and "great" + anger, thus "fine anger" although, perhaps "righteous anger" translates the sentiment best. Bellanger is the name of a character in Arthurian Romance.

Bellarmino c' Italian name used in honor of St. Roberto Bellarmino (1542-1621), since his canonization in the 1930s. It first appeared in English in the seventeenth century in the form Bellarmine, when it was used of glazed ceramic flagons bearing a Green Man-like image of Bellarmino on the neck. The name derives from the Italian meaning "wellarmed."

Bellatrix 2 Latin: bellatrix "female warrior." The name of a star in Orion. Late 19th C. Bellatrix Le Strange is a prominent (and not very nice) character in the Harry Potter series.

Bellona Y Roman Goddess of war, considered to be a sister of Mars. L: bellum "war." 18th C.

Bellonaria 2 The Roman name of a type of plant used by priests at the festival of the Goddess BELLONA, from whom the name derives. It was probably deadly nightshade (see Belladonna).

Beltane Y cc The name of one of the principal Pagan festivals, celebrated on April 30 and May 1. It is an Anglicized form of the Scots Gaelic Bealltainn and Irish Gaelic Bealtaine. CC: *belo- "bright" and *tefnēt- "fire"; there is good evidence that fires have been associated with May 1 in the Celtic lands since pre-Christian times. Like at Samhain- at the other side of the Year-Beltane is regarded as a time when the veil between the worlds is thin, when spirits and fairies abound, and when past, present, and future blur. For many modern Pagans, it is the festival to celebrate the marriage of the God and the Goddess, the King and Queen of the May, when they consummate their love amid the rapid greening of the land, rippling with the Goddess's fecundity. The May Pole, a major feature of celebrations, symbolizes their sacred union. 20th C. Var: Beltaine, Beltene, Beltine.

Benazir Y Arabic name, said to mean "matchless" and "unique," though it seems actually to be a combination of the Arabic prefix bi- "with" + la nazir lab "unparalleled" and "unique." Bearers: Benazir Bhutto (1953-2007), the Pakistani president.

Benedict a' Late Latin: benedictus "blessed," from bene "well" + dico "to speak." Benedict was much used across medieval Europe, due to the popularity of the fifth- and sixth-century St. Benedict, founder of the Benedictine Order. In Britain, the usual everyday form quickly became BENNET. Since the Reformation, it has been mostly used by Catholics in its Sunday-best form Benedict again. Var: Benedick. Nor: Bendik, Dan: Bendt, Bent, Hun: Benedek, It: Benedetto, Cz, Dut, Ger: Benedikt, Pol: Benedyct, Sw: Bengt, It, Sp: Benito, Sc Ga: Benneit, Fr: Benoit, Port:

Bento, Fin: Pentti. Benedick is a principal character in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing.

Benedicta Y Feminine form of BENEDICT. Like Benedict, used since the thirteenth century, mostly in the vernacular form BENNET. In decline before the Reformation, occurrences of Benedicta in the last few centuries have been mostly-if not completely-Catholic. It: Benedetta; Bettina (dim), Sp: Benita, Fr: Benoite.

Benigno Gc Italian and Spanish name from L: *benignus* "kind."

Benison ' As a given name, Benison's use has been principally as an adoption of the surname meaning "son of BENNET." "There is also English "benison" meaning "blessing" and "beatitude" < ME: *beneysun* < OF: *beneifun* < L: *benedictio* "blessing." Var: Bennison. 18th C.

Benjamin c~ Biblical name. Heb: "son of the south"; the name borne by the youngest of Jacob's sons. Used since the Middle Ages, when it featured in Mystery plays. Dim: Ben, Benny, Bennie, Benji, Benjie, Benjy. It: Beniamino, Port: Benjamim, Dut, Fr, Ger: Benjamin, Sp: Benjamin, Mod Heb: Binyamin, Haw: Peni (dim), Ru: Venyamin. Bearers: Benjamin Franklin (1706-90), the polymath; Benjamin Disraeli (1804-81), the British Prime Minister and novelist; Benjamin Britten (1913-76), the English composer; Benjamin Zephaniah (b. 1958), the British poet.

Bennet ? Usual medieval form of BENEDICT and BENEDICTA. Reinforced in the seventeenth century by the surname derived from it. Var: Bennett.

Benno c~ German pet-form of BERNARD and later associated with BENEDICT. St. Benno is the eleventh-century patron saint of Munich.

Bensozie ? Bensozie is the name of a Goddess said to have been worshipped by Witches in medieval France, being particularly associated with the village of Couserans in Gascony. It is most likely a much-corrupted form of ABUNDANTIA. Var: Bensozia.

Bentham c~ English surname, deriving from places called Bentham in Gloucestershire and Yorkshire, a combination of BENNET with ham "homestead." Its use may sometimes have been in honor of the philosopher and social reformer Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832).18th C.

Bentley c~ English surname, deriving from places called Bentley. OE: beonet "bent grass" + leak. 17th C. Bentley Drummie was a character in Dickens's Great Expectations (1860-61). Now mostly associated with the car manufacturer.

Benvenuto c? Italian: benvenuto "welcome." Used in Italy since medieval times. Bearers: Benvenuto Cellini (1500-71), the writer and sculptor.

Benvolio c' A character in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet-although he first features in Matteo Bandello's version Giuletta e Romeo (1554). L: bene "good" + volo "to wish" and "to will"-thus "well-wishing." 20th C.

Benyu c~ Shona: benyu "alive."

Beorn e English form of ON: Bi9rn "bear." It was used in Britain in Viking times, but seems to have died out before the surname period. Dan: Bjarne, Sw: Bjorn, Nor: Bjorn. Bearers: Bjorn Ulvaeus (b. 1945), the Swedish musician; Bjorn Borg (b. 1956), the Swedish tennis player.

Beowulf cc The name of the hero of the great AngloSaxon epic. OE: beo "bee" + wulf. 20th C.

Ber a' Old Yiddish name. OG: berin "bear."

Berchta 2 Essentially, an older form of BERTHA, Berchta is a Germanic Goddess identified with Diana and Holda. Her feast day was said to be January 6, which was Christianized as Epiphany, linking her closely with the Italian Befana. Vestiges of her worship seem to have survived well into medieval times, when her "cult" was condemned by Church authorities. Var: Berhta, Berta, Perchta.

Berehynia Y The name of a Slavic Goddess, most associated with the Ukraine. Originally a type of water-nymph, she later became a protectress

of the home. The etymology isn't entirely clear-though it is probably from the Ukrainian bereh "river bank," cognate with the Ru: bereg "river bank" and "shore." Such places, as thresholds, are often associated with supernatural beings. Ru: Bereginia, Beregynia.

Beren c A character in Tolkien's Silmarillion who is mentioned in Lord of the Rings. He is a mortal man who falls in love with the elven princess Luthien. The name means "bold" in Sindarin, but it is likely Tolkien was inspired by the Germanic berin "bear." Tolkien saw himself in Beren, and the name is even inscribed beneath his own on his gravestone. A rare surname of uncertain origin (possibly connected with BERENGER) is responsible for examples of Beren before the late twentieth century, but most of the name's use postdates the publication of Tolkien's works.

Berengaria ? Feminine form of BERENGER. Berengaria of Navarre (d. 1230) was the wife of King Richard I. She is often said to have been the only English queen never to set foot in England. Late 19th C.

Berenger c Old German: berin "bear" + ger "spear." Berenger occurs in the Charlemagne Romances and was introduced to Britain by the Normans. Var: Benger, BELLANGER.

Berenice Y Berenice is a Macedonian variant of the Greek Phoenike "bringer of victory." It was carried by the armies of Alexander the Great across the Middle East and into Egypt. The wife of Ptolemy I of Egypt was called Berenice; the name occurs in the New Testament, and it was borne by a fourth-century saint. Strictly speaking, the name should be pronounced with four syllables, but it is usually pronounced with three-and frequently just two. 16th C. Dim: Bernie, Binnie, BUNNY. Var: Bernice, VERONICA. Fr: Berenice. "Berenice" (1835) is one of Edgar Allen Poe's most chilling short stories.

Bergamot c~ Y The name of a type of citrus tree. It took its name from the town of Bergamo in Italy, and has been known since at least the eighteenth century for the fragrant oil prepared from the rind. The town itself was called Bergomum in the time of the Romans, and was originally a town of the Celtic Cenomani tribe. It is thought to derive from CC: *brig- meaning "high"-a possible source of BRIDGET. Since the nineteenth century,

bergamot has also been used for Monarda, an aromatic and attractive herb, native to North America, the scent of which is similar to that of bergamot oil. One species, Monarda didyma-often called bee balm-is well known as Oswego tea. It is valued for its fever-lowering properties as well as being beneficial to the digestive system. Wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) is valued for its ability to improve the digestion, to treat colds, and is also used in magic to promote clarity of thought. Both are used as culinary herbs for their flavor.

Berhane 2 Ethiopian name. Amharic: brhan "light." Bearers: Berhane Adere (b. 1973), the Ethiopian athlete and UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

Berinthia Y A literary creation of the early eighteenth century, seemingly a blend of Berenice with Cynthia. Used by Vanbrugh in *The Relapse* (1696), Cibber in *Love's Last Shift* (1696), and Sheridan in *Trip to Scarborough* (1777). Late 18th C.

Berith 2 The name of a Western Semitic God, whose name occurs in the Bible. In later demonology, he became regarded as a duke of Hell. His name is identical to-and probably cognate with-the Hebrew word meaning "covenant" (a feminine noun). This is cognate with the Akkadian verb *biruth* meaning "to fetter." Berith is also used as a variant of Berit, a Norwegian form of BRIDGET.

Bernadette Y French feminine of BERNARD. Used mostly among Roman Catholics, in honor of St. Bernadette of Lourdes (1844-79). 19th C. Dim: Bernie, Detta. Var: Bernardine, Bernadine. It: Bernadetta.

Bernard c~ Bernard derives from both Old English Beornheard-beorn "bear" + heard "hardy"-and its Old German cognate Berinhard. Bernard was the French form, brought to Britain by the Normans, which both reinforced and superseded the native name. Dim: Bernie, BUNNY. Var: Barnard (hist). It Ga: Bearnard, Fr: Bernard, It: Bernardino (dim), It, Port, Sp: Bernardo, Cat: Bernat, Dut: Bernd, Berndt, Ger: Bernhard, Bernhardt, Dut, Nor, Sw: Bernt. Bearers: George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), the Irish playwright; Bernard Cribbins (b. 1928), the English actor; Bernard Woolley a character in *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister* (1980-88).

Berry 2 d Berries have long been symbolic of fertility, fruitfulness, and the bounty of Mother Earth, and are particularly associated with the summer and fall, when the hedge

rows burst with the luscious black and red fruit.'The word has cognates across the Germanic languages, and it may ultimately derive from a root meaning either "bare" or "to eat." The surname Berry has two sources, OE: byrig "at the fort," and ME: beri "servant at the manor house." 17th C.

Bert c~ Y A short form of pretty much any name containing the element bert, but particularly associated with BERTRAM and ALBERT. Var: Bertie, Burt.

Bertha 2 A very old name, deriving from OG: berht "bright." Its ultimate source is the Germanic *berhto-z, a word cognate with CC: *berxto-. It was borne by the mother of Charlemagne, and was a favorite among the Carolingians. It arrived in Britain with the Normans and saw modest usage until the fourteenth century, usually in the form Berta, after which it became rare until the nineteenth century, when it was revived. Poor Bertha is arguably now the least popular name of the ESW inextricably linked with the adjective "big." The original Big Berthas were in fact some serious German heavy artillery used to bombard Paris in 1918, and were named after the daughter of the arms manufacturer who produced them. In Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre (1847), the mad first wife of Edward Rochester is called Bertha.

Berthen y Welsh: berth "beautiful." It is cognate with both BERTHA and BRIGHT.

Berthold a' Old German: berht + vald "power" or hold "fair" and "lovely." Var: Bertolt. Dut: Barthold. Bearers: the German playwright Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956).

Berthuan c Cornish: berthuan "barn owl" and "magpie."

Bertice 2 A late nineteenth-century creation, probably combining BERTHA or BERT with the -ice of names such as BERENICE.

Bertilak c~ The name of the Green Knight in Arthurian Romance. The meaning is unclear, but it is most likely a combination of OE: beorht + lac "offering," "sacrifice," and "gift." The battle between Gawain and the Green Knight is comparable to the battle of the Oak and Holly Kings. Var: Bercilak.

Bettina 2 German and Scandinavian elaboration of BERTHA. Late 19th C.

Bertram c? Introduced by the Normans, Bertram was popular in medieval times, giving rise to a number of surnames. Since the nineteenth century, the French form Bertrand has sometimes been used as a variant. OG: berht + hraben "raven." Dim: Bertie, Bert. Sp: Beltran. Bearers: Bertrand Russell (1872-1970), the British philosopher and pacifist. Bertram "Bertie" Wooster is the hero of P. G. Wodehouse's Bertie Wooster novels.

Berw c' A Celtic God of bubbling springs and healing; identified by the Romans with Apollo. His name is cognate with W: berwi "to boil" deriving ultimately from CC: *berw f- "to brew" or "to cook." His consort on one inscription is named as Damona, and on another as Bormanna. Var: Borvo, Boruo, Bormo, Bormanus, Borbanus.

Berwyn cc Welsh: bar "peal" + gwyn. Berwyn is essentially cognate with FINBAR. It was the name of a legendary early Welsh saint, reputedly one of the children of Brychan Brycheiniog. Interestingly, a Roman era tombstone was found at Llandawke in Wales in the nineteenth century bearing the Brythonic equivalent of the name-Barrivendus-a testimony to the name's great age. Today, Berwyn is most familiar as the name of a mountain and mountain range in North East Wales. 19th C.

Beryl 2 Greek: berullos. The word's ultimate origin, like the stone itself, is probably Indian. Beryl is regarded as an excellent stone for helping to bring focus into a person's life, for concentrating on what matters most and getting rid of stuff holding them back. It is also good for promoting fortitude and lowering stress. Golden beryl is used for scrying, while pink beryl attracts love. Late 19th C.

Bess Y Old pet-form of ELIZABETH. The sobriquet of Elizabeth I was "Good Queen Bess." By the eighteenth century, it was regarded as old-

fashioned and suitable only for animals-hence Dick Turpin's famous horse Black Bess but it was revived in the nineteenth century. Var/Dim: Bessie. The British food manufacturer Auntie Bessie's-which specializes in traditional, ready-made fare such as Yorkshire puddings-easily sums up the present image of the name in Britain.

Bessemer c~ 2 English surname, meaning "broomstick maker," from OE: besma "broom," "broomstick," and "besom." 19th C.

Beste 2 Turkish name-beste "melody," "tune," and "music."

Beth 2 c~ As a given name, Beth is usually considered to be a short form of ELIZABETH. Beth, however, is also the Ogham name for the birch. It is the first letter of the Ogham alphabet, and the word is simply the Old Irish name for a birch-tree, from CC: *betu-, itself cognate with both Birch and BETULA. 19th C. Var: Beith, Beithe. Bearers: Beth Ditto (b. 1981), the American singer. Elizabeth "Beth" March, one of Louisa May Alcott's Little Women (1868-69).

Bethan Y Welsh pet-form of ELIZABETH, used as an independent name in Wales since the nineteenth century. It was adopted more widely from the 1980s, generally being treated as a variant of BETHANY. It may also be treated by some as a variant of Beth Ann, a double name in use in America since the early twentieth century.

Bethany Y A place name in the Bible meaning "house of figs" in Hebrew. Jesus was said to have passed through it on his way to his crucifixion, leading to its adoption as a male and female given name in the seventeenth century. Since the twentieth century, it has become exclusively female.

Bethel c~ The name of a God mentioned in the Bible; his name means "house of (a) God" in Hebrew.

Bethia Y Biblical name generally said to mean "the daughter of Yahweh" in Hebrew. However, the character so-named in the Bible is referred to as "the daughter of the Pharaoh," and it may be that it actually derives from the Egyptian TIA, with the real meaning "daughter of Tia." 16th C. In Scotland it is used to render Beathag into English. Var: Bithiah.

Bethlehem Y cc Biblical place name, associated with the birth of Jesus, meaning "house of bread" in Hebrew. 17th C. Sp: BELEN.

Betony Y c~ The pretty little wood betony possesses many healing properties. Ruled by Jupiter and Fire, and under the sign of Aries, one of its uses in the past was as protection against Witchcraft. In modern herbal medicine, it is particularly valued for its ability to relieve anxiety and ease tension-related headaches; fresh leaves are said to cause intoxication, and it is not a herb to be used in pregnancy. In magic, it is still used for protection, believed to protect the soul and the body. No malevolency can pass where betony is planted, and where leaves have been placed at doors and windows. The name comes from the Late Latin *betonica*, a corruption of *vetonnicia*. This was said to be the name given to the plant by the Gauls, who named it after the Vettones, the Celtiberian tribe said to have discovered its properties. This seems unlikely, although its true origins may still be Celtic. Tempting options include CC: *wfti- "sooth-sayer," and *wftu- "poetic inspiration." 20th C.

Betsan 2 Welsh name, originating as a pet-form of ELIZABETH. Late 19th C.

Betsy Y Pet-form of ELIZABETH. 18th C. Bearers: Betsy Byars (b. 1928), the American writer; Betsy Bell (fl. 1817) was at the centre of the "Bell Witch Haunting" of the Bell Family of Adams, Tennessee, which has featured in two recent films-*The Bell Witch Haunting* (2004) and *An American Haunting* (2006).

Bette 2 French pet-form of ELIZABETH, made well known outside France through Balzac's *La Cousine Bette* (1847). 19th C. Bearers: Bette Davis (1908-89)-whose real name was Ruth Elizabeth Davies; Bette Midler (b. 1944).

Betty ? Pet-form of ELIZABETH, arising at the end of the seventeenth century, and in independent use since the eighteenth century. Recently brought to attention again by the American television series *Ugly Betty* (2006-10). Var: Betti, Bettie, Bettye. W: Beti, Sc Ga: Beitidh. Bearers: Elizabeth "Betty" Parris (1682-1760), one of the first to claim she had been bewitched in Salem in 1692.

Betula y Latin: betula "birch." 20th C.

Beulah Y Biblical name. Heb: "married." It was applied to the land of Israel by Isaiah and "Land of Beulah" is sometimes used of the Judeo-Christian heaven. It came into use after the Reformation, being mostly used by Puritans. Beulah (1859) is a novel by Augusta Jane Evans. Mae West's infamous line "peel me a grape" in the film I'm No Angel (1933) is preceded by the name of her maid-Beulah.

Beuno c~ The name of a Welsh saint venerated at Holywell in North Wales alongside St. Winifred. His name very likely evolved from BERW, and he may well be the old God turned into a Christian saint by the early Church. Benno has been used as a given name since the late nineteenth century, mostly in Wales.

Bevan Originally a Welsh surname deriving from ap Evan "son of Evan." 16th C.

Beverley, Beverly Y English surname, from Beverley in Yorkshire. OE: beofor "beaver" + *licc "stream." It first appeared as a given name for boys at the end of the nineteenth century, and its take-up as a girl's name in America in the early twentieth century is largely due to the 1904 novel Beverly of Graustark by G. B. McCutcheon, which was very popular in its time. The fame and associated glamour of Beverly Hills in the latter half of the twentieth century may also have contributed to its use in America, and the 1950s and '60s. British singing trio the Beverly Sisters may have influenced its use in Britain. Dim: Bev. Bearers: (John) Beverley Nichols (1898-1983), the British novelist; Beverly Crusher, a principal character in the American television series Star Trek: The Next Generation (1987-94).

Bevis C' Bevis is two names in one. The first is a medieval one introduced by Normans in the form Beuves which became Bevis and Beves. It derived from the Frankish name BOBO or Bovo of uncertain meaning. It did not take root, however, and the use of the name in modern times is largely down to the surnames Bevis and Beavis. This derives from both Beauvais in France and the Medieval French nicknames beaufiz and belz meaning "good son." Richard Jefferies's novel Bevis, the Story of a Boy (1882) is largely responsible for the name's use from the late nineteenth century. The

name is now most associated with the American cartoon television series Beavis and Butthead (1992-97).

Beyza ? Turkish name-beyaz "white" and "fair-skinned" (beyaz is also a slang term in Turkey for heroin).

Bezo e 2 Abenaki: bezo "lynx."

Bharat c Indian name. San: bharati "to support" and "to maintain." Epithet of the fire God Agni, as well as the name of a legendary emperor and Rama's loyal younger brother. Bharat is the official name of India, adopted following her independence in 1948. The feminine Bharati is the name of a Goddess in the Rig-Veda.

Bhaskar c' Indian name-San: bhaskara "bright," "glittering," and "shining." An epithet of the sun.

Bhavani 2 One of the names of the wife of Shiva in Indian mythology. San: bhavana "imagination," or bhavana "feeling."

Biac~2 Greek: bia "force." Bia is a Greek God, the personification of force and violence. He is said to be a son of Styx and Pallas and features in Aeschylus's Prometheus Bound, where, with his brother Cratus, he helps nail Prometheus to the cliff. Bia is also used as a short form of BEATRIX in Portuguese.

Bianca Y Italian form of BLANCHE. It features in two Shakespeare plays- The Taming of the Shrew and Othello. 19th C. Dim: BIBI. Bearers: Bianca Jagger (b. 1945), the Nicaraguan-born model and wife of Mick Jagger.

Bibi 2 Bibi arose in Italy as a pet-form of BIANCA. It is also a Muslim girl's name deriving from the Persian word for "lady," and has passed into Swahili, where it means both "grandmother" and "miss," as well as "woman."

Bice Y Italian short form of BEATRIX, in use since the Middle Ages. The obsolete word "bice" meant "dark grey" and "dull blue" < Fr: his "brownish-grey."

Bijou Y French: b~ou "jewel." 19th C. Bearers: Bijou Phillips (b. 1980), American singer.

Bilberry Y ' The name of the small British blueberrylike berry, rich in vitamin C, which grows on small shrubs on open moorland and in pine forests. In the past they were widely harvested like other wild berries and turned into jams and pies. The etymology isn't clear; the second element is Old English and Norse bier "berry," while the first may be the Old Norse bgllr "ball." Blaeberry is the Scottish version, although its history is different; blae is Scots for "blue."

Bilbo c~ The hero of J. R. R. Tolkien's The Hobbit. Tolkien himself, in the appendix of The Lord of the Rings, said the name was meaningless.

Billie 2 Billie originated as a pet-form of WILHELMINA in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Billie Jean King (b. 1943), the American tennis player.

Bina Y Short form of names ending in -bina, particularly Sabina. It is sometimes used as an independent name, possibly on occasion, influenced by-or as a variant of-BINNE. It is also an old Yiddish name-bin(e) "bee," which was originally used in place of the Hebrew Deborah, though it has since become associated with the modern Hebrew bina "understanding."

Binne 2 A name borne by a number of fairies in Irish mythology. It is almost certainly from 01: bind "musical" and "harmonious."

Birch Y c~ The name of the slender and graceful tree with delicate leaves; silver birch is particularly prized for its beautiful white bark. In the Ogham, it is Beth. The birch is well known as a tree which will colonize a new area first, hence it is a tree of new beginnings and change. It enriches the soil in which it grows, and is thus also associated with fertility, and is strongly associated with the Goddess. For all these reasons, perhaps, it is the birch which is the favored tree for a maypole. OE: berc and beorc `birch'; the roots go all the way back to Proto-Indo-European, with cognates in languages such as Lithuanian berzas and Sanskrit bhurja. The surname Birch arose for someone who dwelled by birch-trees. 16th C.

Bird Y (3 The English word "bird" derives from OE: bridd and gave rise to a surname, which is probably responsible for examples of it as a given name from the seventeenth century. Birds, with their ability to fly, have long been a symbol of freedom and independence, and of scaling the heights to achieve our dreams. Birdie and Birdy have long been used as terms of endearment and nicknames, and are found as genuine given names since the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, in Britain, "bird" is also a slang term for a young woman or girlfriend.

Birger c~ Birger has been used as a given name in Scandinavia since the days of the Vikings. Var: Birghir, Byrghir (hist). ON: biarga "to help." Sw: Borje, Dan, Nor: Barge and Barre.

Biru c Y Malaysian name. Malay: biru "blue."

Bistort c~ Y The name of the herb with a bitter, lemony flavor. It is ruled by Saturn and Earth, and used in magic to enhance psychic powers. Carrying bistort around is said to aid conception and attract money. L: bistorta < his "twice" and torta "twisted" (past participle of torqueo "to twist")-a reference to its roots.'Their intertwining appearance also give the plant its other names of snakeweed and adderwort.

Bitay Persian name-bitay "unique." Possibly the source of the Romani girl's name Biti. Var: Beeta.

Biyou 2 Chinese name. Mand: bi you "jasper."

Bjork Y Icelandic name. ON: bjork "birch." Bearers: Bjork Gudmundsdottir (b. 1965), the Icelandic singer-songwriter.

Black c~ In the past, most examples of Black as a given name-which occur from at least the eighteenth century-represent the transferred use of the surname. OE: blac "black." Black is a much-maligned color in the West, largely associated negatively with death and darkness. Although the surname arose with regard to a person's hair color, the adjective has long been used to mean "grim" at best and "evil" at worst. But its association with darkness carries through to an association with the night, and therefore also with mystery-and Witchcraft. The black cat can be a sign of good luck

or bad luck-depending where in the world you happen to be and what it is doing, but it is the Witch's familiar par excellence and has been associated with Witches since the Middle Ages. To the Chinese, black symbolized the North and Water. To the Aztecs, who used weapons made of obsidian, black was the color of war.

Blackbird Y The charming little blackbird with its bright yellow beak is renowned for its beautiful song. It goes by other names, such as ouzel, amsel, and merle. The surname Blackbird, however, derives from "black beard." 19th C.

Blade c' The word "blade" is principally used to refer to the sharp, metal part of a knife or sword, but is often used more poetically of the knife or sword in its entirety and, even on occasion, for the one who wields it, when it is used in a heroic sense. Both knives and swords feature in the rituals of some Pagan traditions, usually representing the God. 18th C.

Bladud c~ Bladud is a character of Welsh mythology-a son of Rhun and father of Llyr. W: blaidd "wolf" + iud(d) "lord." Var: Bleiddudd, Bleiddud. 19th C.

Blaine c~ The surname Blaine has three origins-from the Welsh BLETHYN, from an English nickname deriving from OE: blegen "inflammatory swelling," and as a shortened form of the Scottish MacBlain "son of BLANE." Today it is mostly treated as a variant of the last. Var: Blain. 17th C.

Blair a' Y Scottish surname. Sc Ga: blar "field." 18th C. The Blair Witch Project is a 1999 horror film about the legend of the fictional "Blair Witch."

Blaise G~ Latin: blaesus "lispig," used as a cognomen in Roman times. St. Blaise was an early fourth-century saint, mostly revered in France. The name may have been used in the Middle Ages, although the surname Blaise has a different origin-OE: blues "torch" and "firebrand," used of someone with an irascible disposition. Mostly used by Catholics since the seventeenth century. Var: Blase, BLAZE. Hun: Balazs, It: Biagio, Cz/Slovak: Blaiej, Pol: Blazej, Ru: Vlasi. Bearers: Blaise Pascal (1623-62),

the French philosopher and mathematician; Blaise Zabini, a minor character in the Harry Potter series.

Blake c Y The surname Blake is a variant of BLACK. In Britain, in particular, it has often been used in honor of the poet William Blake (1757-1827), who did much to revive Druidry in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. 17th C.

Blanche Y English and French form of the medieval Spanish name Blanca-Sp: blanca "white." In the thirteenth century, Blanca of Castille married Louis VIII of France, introducing the name to France. It arrived in Britain later in the same century with the marriage of Blanca's granddaughter Blanche of Artois (d. 1300) to one of the sons of King Henry I. It has been suggested the name was first used as a translation of the Latin Candida. Blanche was revived along with other medieval favorites in the nineteenth century. Var: Blaunch, Blaunche (hist); Blanch. It: BIANCA, Sp: Blanca, Pol: Blanka. Blanche du Bois is a character in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1949).

Blanchefleur 2 French: blanc "white" + fleur "flower." Blanchefleur was a popular name for medieval romances, such as the twelfth-century *Floris* and *Blanchefleur* and Chretien de Troyes's late twelfth-century *Perceval*.

Blane c~ The name of an obscure Scottish saint. It Ga: bla 'Yellow' + dim. suffix -an. Much mixed up with BLAINE. 20th C. It Ga: Blaan.

Blath Y Irish Gaelic: blath "flower." It was a name borne by an Irish female saint. She is commemorated on January 29, which is suspiciously close to Imbolc. Tellingly, she is also believed to have been St. Bridget's cook in her kitchens in Kildare. These strong links to Brigid may indicate that she was in origin an aspect of the Goddess. 20th C. Dim: Blathin, Blaithin.

Blathnaid 2 Irish Gaelic: blath "flower" + fern suffix -nait. In Irish mythology, Blathnaid was the sweetheart of Cu Chulainn. Var: Blathnait, Blathnat, Blaid.

Blaze c 2 Blaze has occurred as a variant of BLAISE for centuries. Its use in more recent years-and its adoption as a girl's name-is likely to be a direct

adoption of the English "blaze." This evolved from OE: blues "torch" and "firebrand," which was actually used as a nickname in the Middle Ages.

Bleddyn c~ Traditional Welsh name-blaidd "wolf" It was common in the medieval period and clung on in occasional use, usually in the Anglicized forms Blethyn, Blethin, and Blevin, until being properly revived in the nineteenth century. It is behind a number of surnames, including Blethyn, Blevins, Pleaden, Pleavin, and Plevins.

Bledri a' Welsh: blaidd "wolf" + rhi "ruler." An Old Welsh name, revived 19th C. Var: Bledrig, Bleiddrig.

Blessing Y a Adoption of the word blessing as a given name, originally by Puritans. One of the most popular parting phrases of many Pagans, especially Wiccans is "blessed be." Others may use "bright blessings." 17th C.

Blizzard c~ 2 The word "blizzard" is surprisingly young, arising only in the early nineteenth century. It was first used in America with the meaning "knock," acquiring its modern meaning "snow storm" later in the century. Its origin is very uncertain, but it most likely derives from words such as "bluster" and "blister." Late 19th C.

Blodeuwedd Y In Welsh mythology, Blodeuwedd's original name was simply Blodeuedd, an archaic plural of blodau "flowers." She is regarded as the Welsh Goddess of the late spring; the original May Queen, the bride of the May King-Lleu Llaw Gyffes. Crafted from the flowers of oak, broom, and meadowsweet by Math and Gwydion, she married Lleu without complaint, but later fell passionately in love with Gronw. The feeling was mutual, and they plotted together to get rid of Lleu. After Gwydion learnt of her betrayal, he transformed her into an owl. Her name then became Blodeuwedd-W: blodau "flowers" + gwedd "appearance" or "form"-a comment on the flower-shaped face of the owl. She was doomed ever after to keep to the night, or be attacked by the birds of the daytime for her crime against Lleu. 19th C. Var: Blodwedd (mod).

Blodwen Y Welsh: blodyn "flower" + gwyn. A nineteenth century invention, Joseph Parry's opera Blodwen (1878) was responsible for

introducing it to the ESW The variant Blodwyn is technically male.

Blodyn y Welsh: blodyn "flower," used as a term of endearment in Wales. 19th C.

Blondie ? Originally a nickname for a girl with blond hair, the name has been used as a given name in its own right since the end of the nineteenth century. The character of Blondie Bumstead in the 1930s comic strip Blondie did much to promote it, and it received further exposure in the late 1970s and early '80s because of the singer-songwriter Debbie Harry (b. 1945) with her group Blondie. A related name is the French Blondine, which features in Madame d'Aulnoy's seventeenth-century fairy-tale "Princess Belle Etoile."

Blossom Y English: "blossom." OE: blostm, from which "blossom" evolved, shares the same PIE root as the Irish blath, Welsh blodyn, and Latin flos "flower." 19th C.

Blue Y c? The color of the Element of Water, blue has many positive associations. Its scarcity as a pigment in ancient times meant that it has long been associated with royalty and sacredness. For instance, while a historic Virgin Mary would never have owned anything colored blue, she has always been depicted with a blue veil because of the expense involved in painting it. Var: Bleu (Fr). Bearers: Elijah Blue Allman (b. 1976), the son of singer Cher; Dakota Blue Richards (b. 1994), the British actress; Bonnie Blue Butler-so named for her "bonnie blue eyes"-is the daughter of Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler in *Gone with the Wind*.

Bluebell Y The name of the beautiful flower of the late spring, found in ancient woodlands and long associated with the May and fairies. 19th C.

Blythe e Y English "blithe" < OE: blioe "gentle" and "merry." In the past, it also meant "kind" and "clement," accounting for its adoption as a given name by Puritans in the sixteenth century. The surname Blythe derives partly from the adjective and partly from Blyth in Northumberland. This takes its name from the River Blyth, which also comes from blue. Closely related is Bliss; it gave rise to a surname too, which first appeared as a

given name in the eighteenth century. Use of Blythe and Blithe in more recent years may be inspired by Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* (1941).

Bo c~ ? In the ESW, Bo is simply a variant of BEAU. However, Bo is a traditional boy's name in Scandinavia, deriving from Old Norse Bui "dweller," "inhabitant" < bzia "to dwell." It is also a Chinese unisex name: bo "wave"; bo "ripple"; bo "storm"; bd "quince"; bd "silk." Bearers: Bo Derek (b. 1956), the American actress-real name Mary Collins.

Boann 2 The Irish Gaelic name of the Goddess of the River Boyne, which takes her name. She is also a Goddess of love. At the source of the Boyne is a pool where the Salmon of Wisdom resides, fed by hazelnuts, which drop from the nine hazel trees surrounding the pool. The river's name in the Roman era was Bubindas, supporting the traditional etymology from CC: *bow- "cow" + *windo- "white." The first element, however, might possibly be CC: *biwo- "alive," from which 01: bed "living" evolved. Biunia is attested as a female name in Roman Gaul. Var: Boanna, BOYNE.

Boar 9 Wild boars were once plentiful in the woods of Europe, and amongst the Celts were associated with royalty and strength. Its sacredness was not confined to the Celts, however; the animal held an important position in Norse and Anglo-Saxon spiritualities also. The Norse fertility God Ing rides a golden boar once a year, which symbolically ploughs up the Earth. Unfortunately, the word's similarity to the English words "bore" and "boorish" detract from its use as a given name. There are good options in other languages, however, such as the Latin Verres or Aper, and the Welsh Baedd.

Boaz a A biblical name, the meaning of which is uncertain. Perhaps from a Hebrew word meaning "swiftness." 16th C.

Bobo c~ Old German name from which BEVIS evolved. In Twi, bobo also means "quiet," "silent," "still," "peaceable," and "phlegmatic"-although it can also sometimes carry the negative connotations of "dull" or "sluggish."

Bodhmall 2 The name of a warrior-Druideess who raised Finn McCool. She may represent a survival of the Goddess BADHBH. 01: bodb "crow" + mdl "noble."

Bodo cc Old German: bod "messenger" and "tidings."

Boglarka Y Hungarian name, used for Goldilocks in the Hungarian version of the fairy-tale. Hun: bogldrka "buttercup."

Bold cc Adoption of the English adjective meaning "brave." OE: bald and beald, and OG: balda were common elements in names, and were often used as short forms of such names, especially BALDWIN. This is the principal source of Bold the surname, but another is OE: bold "dwelling house." Bold is also a Mongolian boy's name-bold "steel." 17th C.

Bona 2 Latin: bonus "good." "The Bona Dea-"Good Goddess"-is a Roman Goddess of women, and possibly also of the Earth. Her feast was kept with secret rites by well-born respectable Roman wives. She is particularly associated with the Goddesses Ops, Maia, and Fauna, but also has ties with Juno and Isis. St. Bona of Pisa (d. 1207) is an Italian saint. 16th C.

Bonamy Y English surname. OF: bon "good" + ami "friend." 18th C.

Bonaventure c~ Y English form of the Italian Bonaventura < It: bonaventura "good luck." St. Bonaventura (1221- 74) was a Franciscan scholar (born Giovanni di Fidenza). 16th C.

Bond cc English surname. OE: bunda/bonda "husbandman," "peasant," and "churl." The noun bond, often used of invisible ties of love and empathy, derives from ON: band "act of binding." 17th C.

Boniface The name of an early saint which was then adopted as a papal name. It was often said to derive from the Latin bonifacius meaning "well-doer," but in Latin inscriptions the name is almost always Bonifatius, indicating that in fact its source is L: bonum "good"+fatum "fate." Due to its use as the surname of an innkeeper in Farquhar's The Beaux' Stratagem (1707), it became a general term for an innkeeper in the eighteenth century. 13th C. It, Sp, Port: Bonifacio, Dut: Bonifaas, Faas (dim).

Bonita Y Spanish: bonito "pretty." Late 19th C. Dim: BONNIE.

Bonnie Y Scottish: bonny "pretty." Its use by Mitchell in *Gone with the Wind* (1936) as the name of the daughter of Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler-Bonnie Blue-is responsible for most of its use, though it was first used in the late nineteenth century. Var: Bonny. Bearers: Bonnie Parker (1911-34), American outlaw, whose story was immortalized in the 1967 film *Bonnie and Clyde*.

Boonsri Y Thai name-bun "good deeds" and "merit" + si "majesty," "glory," "honor," and "splendor" < SRI.

Bopha Y Khmer name-boppha "flower." Also used as a term of endearment.

Borage c 2 A herb. Ruled by Jupiter and Air, borage has long been valued for its numerous properties. Borage tea is said to improve psychic powers, while a sprig of borage promotes courage. As a folk-remedy, borage had a reputation for lifting the spirits and herbalists today still use it as an antidepressant, along with many other uses from lowering blood pressure to soothing damaged tissue. L: borago < borra "rough hair"-a reference to the hairy texture of the leaves.

Boreas G~ The Greek God of the North Wind. Gr: Boreas "north wind." He is sometimes represented in art with the tails of snakes for feet, and was particularly revered in the town of Megalopolis in Arcadia, having been credited with saving the inhabitants from an attack by the Spartans. 19th C.

Boris c? Russian name, either from the Old Slavonic bor "fight" or the Tartar nickname Bogoris "small." Late 19th C. Bearers: Boris Gudonov (1552-1605), a Tsar of Russia; Boris Pasternak (1890-1960), the Russian writer; Boris Yeltsin (1931-2007), the Russian President; Boris Becker (b. 1967), the German tennis player.

Bormanna 2 A Celtic Goddess of hot springs and healing. She is the consort of Bormo, whose name is a form of BERW. Bormanna derives from the same source. She shared a shrine with Bormo at Aix-en-Diois in the South of France, but is also found worshipped on her own, such as at SaintVulbas in the Ain Department of France. St. Vulbas or St. Vulba is an

exceedingly obscure saint-whose name may well derive from Bormanna or Bormo.

Bors e A Knight of the Round Table. The origin is unknown, although, it may conceivably be from BOREAS.

Boston c' ? Boston, Massachusetts, was named after a small town in Lincolnshire from where some of the founders originated. Boston means "BOTULF's settlement," and was either named after the saint of the name or a man who also bore the name in Saxon times. 18th C.

Boswell cc English Surname, deriving from Beuzeville-laGiffard in France. The name Beuzeville itself is a combination of the OG name Boso (bosi "wicked" and "audacious") + Fr: vine. Boswell is most strongly associated with a Scottish family who were Lords of Auchinleck, among them James Boswell (1740-95), friend and biographer of Samuel Johnson. 17th C.

Boswellia 2 The botanical name for "frankincense," deriving from BOSWELL-although there is some debate over whether it was named after the well-known James Boswell, or the shadowy "Dr John Boswell of Edinburgh" (1710-80), reputedly a botanist. 19th C.

Botilda 2 Latinized form of Old Norse Bothildr- bot "remedy" + hildr "battle," which was introduced by the Vikings or the Normans. It died out in the Middle Ages. Var: Botill, Botild, Botyld (hist). Scand: Bodil, Sw: Bothild.

Botolph (' Old German name with uncertain origins. It may be Slavonic, or derived from Germanic elements cognate with ON: bot "remedy" + wulf. Early forms such as Bodoloff and Bodolev point to the former; while Bodenolf has a more Germanic appearance. However, there is a third option not usually considered. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that the name has Celtic roots; CC: *boduo- crow features in numerous Celtic names and the second element could conceivably be from CC: *lugra- "moon," *lugiyo "oath," *lub-o "love," *luto- "anger" or even *Lugu- Lugh. Both of the last two elements are attested in names, and it seems just as likely that someone with a Celtic name might have ended up in Dark Age

Germany as someone with a Slavonic one; indeed it is possibly more likely, given the fact that parts of Germany and Celtic Britain were united by the ties forged during the Roman Empire. This theory is also strengthened by the fact there is a late seventh-century saint-usually called Botolf or Botulf-who is credited with taking the Benedictine order to Britain. It is usually assumed he was German-but he could just as easily have been a returning native.

Boudicca 2 The name of the famous queen of the Iceni, who almost managed to expel the Romans from Britain in 60/61 CE, but was defeated in battle somewhere along what is now the AS in the British Midlands. Whether Boudicca was her original name, or a name taken when she succeeded her husband as king, is unknown. It derives from CC: *bowdi-"victory," from which the Welsh budd "profit" and "advantage" also derives. As a result, the Welsh name Buddug-which derives from budd-is often considered to be the Welsh equivalent of both Boudicca and Victoria. 19th C. Var: Boadicea.

Boyce c~ English Surname. Fr: bois "wood." 17th C.

Boyd a' Scottish surname. Ga: buidhe "yellow." 17th C.

Boyne Y e The English form of the famous Irish river which derives from the name of the Goddess BOANN, who is associated with it. The Battle of the Boyne in 1692-so named because it was fought on the river's banks-saw the defeat of the Catholic King James II by the Protestant King William III of Orange, and led to increased settlement of Ulster by Protestants, mostly from Scotland, a key factor in the conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Ulster. 18th C.

Bozena Y Deriving from a Slavic word meaning "divine," Bozena is used in more than one Slavic land, particularly the Czech Republic and Croatia. The pet form Boiica means "Goddess" in Serbo-Croatian. Pol: Boiena.

Bracken a' Y Bracken is a very ancient plant, which grows in woods and moorland. In some places it has been used as an alternative to thatch as a roofing material. Ruled by Mercury and Air, there is an old belief that if you burn bracken outside, it will rain. It is used for protection and can

induce prophetic dreams if placed beneath the pillow. ON: *brakni "fern."The surname Bracken was originally bestowed upon someone who lived near where bracken grew. 18th C.

Bradamante Y The name of a character in Boiardo's Orlando Innamorato, Ariosto's Orlando Furioso and Handel's Alcina (1735). She is a rare example in medieval literature of an empowered woman-a female warrior, who does the rescuing. It: brado "wild," "untamed," and "natural" (used of wild animals) + amante "loving" (present participle of amare "to love"). The sense that Boiardo wished to convey was that her love (for Ruggiero) was that of the wild: natural, untamed, genuine, and unaffected.

Bradan c~ Old Irish name meaning "little salmon," from It Ga: brad "salmon."The salmon holds a special place in Celtic mythology. The Salmon of Wisdom is an important element of Celtic mythology. The salmon lives in a pool at the source of the Boyne River, and gains its wisdom from the hazelnuts from the hazel trees that surround it.

Braden c~ Braden is an Irish surname deriving from the Gaelic O Bradain meaning "descendant of BRADAN"although in some cases it is probably a variant of the similar English Bradden, taken from places called Braddon (OE: brad "broad" + denu "valley) or OE: brad "broad" + hand "hand," a medieval nickname.'though in use since the nineteenth century, the name's use dates mostly to the late twentieth, as it combines elements currently in vogue, the Br- of names such as Bradley, Brady, Brandon and Brendan, and the -ayden of Jayden and Aidan. Var: Brayden, Bradyn, Braeden, Braedon, Braiden, Braydon, Braylen, Braylon, Bralen (mod).

Bradford c~ English surname. OE: brad "broad" + ford "ford"-the name of a number of British towns and villages. 17th C. Dim: Brad.

Bradley c~ English surname. OE: brad "broad" + leak-the name of several English villages. 17th C. Dim: Brad.

Brady e A surname of English and Irish origins. The English is partly from OE: brad "broad" + gage "eye," a medieval nickname, and partly from brad "broad" + eg "enclosure," referring to someone who dwelt by a broad enclosure.'The Irish is probably from the Irish Gaelic bragha "chest" or

"throat," which may have been used as a nickname for someone who was broad-chested. 17th C.

Braint 2 A Welsh name, usually treated as a form of BRIDGET. However, its form suggests that it developed directly from BRIGANTIA.

Brambling Y c' The attractive little brambling is quite similar in appearance to a chaffinch, and is particularly fond of beech woods. The word is first recorded in the sixteenth century, deriving from the German name for the bird-bramling-West German: brdma "brambles" + noun suffix -ling.

Bramwell e English surname, from Bramwell in Derbyshire. OE: brom "broom" + wella "a spring" or "stream." 18th C. Dim: Bram.

Bran e Welsh: bran "raven" < CC: *brano- "crow." Bran is a name borne by more than one figure in Welsh and Irish myth-the most important being Bendigeidfran "Bran the Blessed." In the Mabinogion, he is described as a king of Britain, a son of Llyr, brother of Beli Mawr-and a giant. He is considered by most to be a Celtic God. Bran is sometimes used as a short form of BRANWELL and BRANDON. 20th C.

Branchus c' The name of a son of Apollo. According to legend, he introduced Apollo to two cities, Miletus and Didyma in Asia Minor-the latter known in later times for its Oracle of Apollo. Gr: bragkhus "hoarseness" and "hoarse."

Brand 5' English surname. ON: Brandr "firebrand" and "sword." Brandr survived for a time in certain parts of Britain which had seen most Viking settlement, and is still used in Iceland. The English word "brand" derives directly from the Norse. 17th C.

Brandegorre c~ The name of a character in medieval Arthurian Romance. The etymology is uncertain, but it may be a corruption of Bendigeidfran (see Bran).

Brandon cc English surname, from Brandon in Suffolk. OE: brom "broom" + dun "hill." Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk (1484-1545) was the brother-in-law of King Henry VIII and grandfather of Lady Jane Grey, the

ill-fated "Queen of Nine Days." 17th C. Var: Branden. Dim: BRAN, BRANDY. Charles Kingsley used the name Brandon for a character in *The Water Babies* (1863), and Colonel Brandon is a principal character in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* (1811).

Brandre c~ A name for the rook in Cornwall. Cornish: bran "crow" + are "town."

Brandubh c? Old Scots and Irish Gaelic name. Ga: bran "crow" + dubh "black." It was said to be the name of an early Irish missionary-whose father just happened to be none other than Lugh. He is particularly connected with Tynagh in Western Ireland, leading to speculation that this was a centre of worship of Lugh, and focus for worship at Lughnasadh.

Brandy c~ 2 Short form of BRANDON, used independently since the late nineteenth century for boys, and twentieth century for girls. Some of its use may have been inspired by the spirit brandy. Dutch: brandew~n "distilled wine." Var: Brandi, Brandie.

Brangaine Y The name of a character in Arthurian Romance; the handmaid of Iseult in the story of Tristan and Iseult. It is almost certainly a corruption of BRANWEN. Var: Brangwain, Brengain, Brengwain. Bragnae is the latest take on the name, coined for the 2006 film *Tristan and Isolde*.

Brangwyn c Although this is now usually treated as a male version of BRANWEN, Brangwyn actually originated as a surname, although it did evolve from Branwen. The artist Sir Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956) is responsible for making the name known. 20th C.

Branwaladr c~ 'The name of a West Country saint. W: bran "raven" + gwaladr "prince."

Branwell c~ English surname-a variant of BRAMWELL. Its general use is principally due to the fact that it was borne by the brother of the Bronte sisters. His full name was Patrick Branwell Bronte (1817-48), but he was always

called Branwell; Branwell was their mother's maiden name. 18th C.

Branwen Y An ancient Welsh name-bran 'raven' + gwyn. It was the name borne by the tragic sister of Bran the Blessed, who married Matholwch, King of Ireland. His mistreatment of her led to Bran's invasion of Ireland which eventually led to Bran's death. Branwen, in her sorrow, became a bird. Branwen was used as a girl's name in Wales in the Middle Ages, but did not survive. Revived 19th C.

Brauronia Y An epithet of Artemis, deriving from an important shrine to her at Brauron in Attica. The origin of this is unknown, but Artemis's connection with bears was particularly strong at this site, and it is tempting to suggest a connection with the Germanic *beron- "bear."

Brave c~ Y The English adjective "brave." It came into English from the Italian bravo, through French, but its ultimate source is unknown. 19th C. A child called Brave Nelson Blackwood was registered in Wiltshire, England, in 1875.

Braveheart c~ Now almost entirely associated with Scottish folk-hero William Wallace, as a result of the 1995 film of the same name. Braveheart, however, was never historically associated with Wallace, but with Robert the Bruce. Sir James Douglas (d. 1330), as he passed a casket containing the heart of the Bruce to his companions during the siege of Teba, Granada, is said to have cried, "Press on, brave Heart, as thou wert wont: I follow thee or die!" (The exact words vary depending on the source; these are from H.T. Mackenzie Bell's 1877 poem "The Keeping of the Vow.") Late 20th C.

Braxton e English surname, probably arising as a variant of Broxton, which derives from a village in Suffolk. This is now called Browston, but at the time of the Domesday Book, its name was Brockestuna. OE: brocc "badger" + tun. Carter Braxton (1736-97) was one of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence, and some use of the name in America has been in his honor. The name is most associated today with "Braxton Hicks contractions," the name given to the false labor contractions. 18th C.

Brays y English surname with a number of origins. Some derive it from the village of Bray-OF: bray(e) "marsh." Another source is the Cornish bregth "brave." This is the origin of the Cornish St. Bray, who is also known as Breage. The similarity to Bridget and Brigantia may not be coincidental;

bregb comes ultimately from CC: *briga-, the same potential derivation as Bridget. It is therefore not beyond the realms of possibility that St. Bray represents a survival of the worship of the Goddess in Cornwall. The last source of Bray is the medieval Cornish women's name Braya, which is probably a variant of Breage. Late 16th C. Var: Braye.

Brazil cc Y The name of the South American country, deriving from BREASAL. 19th C.

Breasal c' An Old Irish name, which appears a number of times in early Irish history and mythology. One Breasal was said to be High King of Ireland in the second or first century BCE. Another, Bresal Etarlaim, was the wizard-Druid foster-father of the Witch Fuamnach. A variant form Breasil is the name of another important figure in Irish mythology, the "King of the World" whose fabled lands lay in the West and who gave his name to Brazil. 01: bres "fight" or "combat" + fal "rule," or gal "valor." Var: Bresal, Bressal.

Breda 2 Short form of ALBREDA, used independently since the nineteenth century. Used in Ireland to render BRID. Var: Breeda.

Bree Y Bree is often treated as an Anglicized form of the Gaelic Brighde, a form of BRIDGET, but in practice it has mostly come into use as a short form of both Bridget and, later, BRIANNA. There is also a surname, which is a variant of BRAY, and examples of Bree as a middle name in the nineteenth century almost certainly represent this. In Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, Bree also happens to be the name of the only vaguely civilized place which lies between the Shire and Rivendell. Var: Brie-best known for the cheese.

Breeze Y The English word "breeze" comes from the Old Spanish BRIZA. It came to English in the sixteenth century from the Spanish colonies in the East Indies, being first used of the North-East trade wind in tropical regions. By the seventeenth century, it was being used of any cool wind blowing from the sea in the tropics, and then any cool, gentle wind. The English surname Breeze derives from OE: breosa "gadfly." 18th C. Var: Breezy.

Brenda Y An old Shetland name. ON: brandr "firebrand" and "sword." After it was used by Sir Walter Scott in *The Pirate* (1821), it passed into general use. Bearers: Brenda Fricker (b. 1945), an Irish actress; Brenda Blethyn (b. 1946), an English actress.

Brendan c? The name of two Irish "saints" of the sixth century, St. Brendan of Birr and Brendan the Navigator. At an advanced age, the latter is said to have sailed across the Atlantic and to be the first European to discover America-is it really just a coincidence that the Irish Bran of myth was also a famous navigator? Or that when he returned to Ireland, after his enchanted travels to a mystical far off-shore, a comrade who stepped ashore grew old and turned to dust before the bystanders' eyes? Others seem to go to great lengths to avoid stating the obvious: that Brendan the Navigator is simply a Christianized version of the Pagan Irish Bran.'The modern Gaelic form of the name is Breandan, the older is Breanainn. One etymology derives it from OI: bren "stinking + find "hair" (No doubt he was in need of a bath after sixtyodd days at sea). Others derive it from an Irish cognate of W: brenin "king"; there is CC: *brigantinos, meaning "king" or "prince," which could also have given Breanainn. Even if this is the true origin of Breanainn, rather than a development from Bran, it is perfectly plausible that Brendan has come to represent two names-Breanainn itself-the name of Brendan of Birr-and that of Bran, the Pagan navigator. It is not at all unlikely that the two names were confused in medieval times, either by accident-or deliberately. 18th C.

Brenna Y Essentially a variant of BRIANNA modeled on BRENNAN.

Brennan cc An Irish and an English Surname.'The Irish name comes from the Gaelic O Braonain, meaning "descendant of BRONAN"; the English from the self-explanatory ME: burn + hand, a nickname used for the official who carried out the medieval punishment of branding the hand of criminals. Its use as a first name dates to the eighteenth century, but its similarity to BRENDAN and BRIAN is likely to be responsible for much of its use from the twentieth.

Brennius c The name of a legendary king of Britain recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth. Almost certainly, he is one and the same with BRAN.

Brent c? English surname, deriving from more than one place called Brent, sharing the same etymology as BRIGANTIA; such places may have been sites associated with the Goddess. 17th C. A character of the name features in Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*.

Breton Gi Used to refer to someone who lives in, or comes from, BRITTANY. It is also an English surname from the same source. 17th C.

Brett e Y The English surname has two sources; OF: le Bret-used to refer to someone from BRITTANY-and OE: Brit, Bryt, and Bret-used to refer to the Celtic inhabitants of Strathcylde, who continued to be called "Britons" until the early fourteenth century. 17th C. Brett Ashley was a character in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* (1926).

Breunor c~ A character of Arthurian Romance. The name is probably simply an elaboration of BRUNO. Var: Brunor.

Brewster c~ English surname: OE: breowstre "female brewer." 17th C.

Briafael c~ The name of an early Welsh saint. W: bri "fame" + gafael "seize." He is considered one and the same as Briog.

Briallen 2 Welsh: briallen "primrose." Early 20th C.

Brian c~ One of the most well-known of Irish, indeed Celtic, personal names. It derives from exactly the same root as BRIGANTIA and also BRIDGET, either CC: *brig-/ brigant- "high," or *briaa- "might" and "power." Brian Born is one of Ireland's most famous kings, and the name was popular in medieval Ireland. It was also found in Brittany-where it may well have developed independently from the same root-from which it passed into Norman use. The Normans took it to England at the time of the Norman Conquest. It became uncommon outside Ireland after the medieval period, but was re-embraced in the nineteenth century, along with other old favorites of the Middle Ages. Var: Bryan, Brien, Bryant; Brayan (mod). Dim: Bri, Bry. Bearers: Brian Blessed (b. 1937), the English actor; Brian Cowen (b. 1960), the Irish Taoiseach; Brian Warner (b. 1969), a.k.a. Marilyn Manson, the American singer; Brian Cohen, the principal character in the British film *Monty Python's Life of Brian* (1979).

Brianag Y The name of a Scottish Goddess. Ostensibly BRIAN + the Scots Gaelic dim. suffix -ag, Brianag may be one and the same as BRIGANTIA.

Brianna 2 Nineteenth-century feminine form of BRIAN. Var: Brianne, Breanna, Breeanna, Breeanne (mod). Dim: BREE. Brianne (pronounced "bree-AN-a") is sometimes used in Wales, where it is the name of a reservoir, Llyn Brianne. W: bryniau "hills."

Briar Y e The briar is a common name of the climbing wild rose, also called eglantine or sweet briar. It is also used as another name for brambles.'There is an English surname

Briar-OE: hr-,r "brambles," used of someone who lived near brambles. 19th C.'The combination Briar Rose-as found in Disney's Sleeping Beauty (1959)-is found from the late nineteenth century. Var: Brier.

Brice c~ English and French form of the Latin Britius, Bricius, and Briccius, the various forms taken of a name borne by a fourth-/fifth-century saint.'This is the Latinized form of a Gaulish name cognate with the Welsh brych "speckled," and thus related to BRYCHAN. Var: Bryce. It: Brizio.

Bridget Y Usual Anglicized form of Brigid, the name of one of the most important Irish Goddesses, so beloved in Ireland that instead of trying to eradicate her worship, the Christians turned her into a sixth-century saint. To this day Catholics often argue that the saint justhappened to share the same name as the Goddess, and just happened to found her monastery on the site of Bridget's cult center in Kildare, and just happened to have a bit of a thing for fire, etc. Similarly, the widespread nature of St. Bridget's cult in England and Wales is often ascribed to the spread of the cult from Ireland when-although the form "Bridget" is Irish-her worship in the British Isles is probably much older; Bridget and the famous Brythonic Goddess BRIGANTIA are almost certainly the same deity.'The form Bridget developed from Brigitta, a Latinized form of the Medieval Irish Brigit and Brigid. CC: *brig-/brigrant- "high," or *briga- "might" and "power" combined with the fem. suffix -ait.'This has become Brighid in Modern Irish Gaelic. The variants Brid and Bride are also used. In England and Wales, Bride and Bryde were also commonly used in the Middle Ages, surviving in place names such as Bridewell. Bridget is found as a given name in

England from the fourteenth century. In Ireland it wasn't actually used until the seventeenth; it was considered too sacred for everyday use in previous centuries (so much for the saint just happening to share the Goddess's name!). In the nineteenth century, the pet-form Biddy was so common in Ireland that it became a nickname for an Irishwoman (in the same way Paddy was used for an Irishman). It has lost this meaning now, but "old biddy" is still used in Britain as a mild slang term for an old woman. Dim: Bridie, Biddie, Biddy; Bridge, Brigh, BREE (mod). W: Ffraid, Jr Ga: Bridin (dim), Romani: Bidi, It: Brigida, Port, Sp: Brigida, Fr: BRIGITTE, Fin: Piritta; Pirkko, Riitta (dim). Bearers: Bridget Bishop (c. 1632-92), was the first of those tried and convicted of Witchcraft to be executed during the Salem Witch Trials; Bridget Bostock is a semi-legendary Cheshire Witch, who lived in Coppenhall in the eighteenth century, and was famous across England for her healing powers. Bridget Cleary (1870-98) is often called "the last Witch burnt in Ireland"-however, Witchcraft was never raised in her case; she was murdered by her husband, who maintained that the fairies had stolen his wife and replaced her with a changeling, although this is perhaps splitting hairs.

Brigantia 2 The important Brythonic Goddess, much revered in Roman times; probably the titular deity of the Brigantes-the large Celtic tribe of the North of England. CC: *brig /brigant- "high," or *briga- "might" and "power." Brigantia is popularly linked with BRIDGET.

Bright ? c~ English surname and adjective. OE: beohrt "bright," "beautiful," and "fair." 17th C.

Brightly 2 c' English surname and adverb.'The surname derives from Brightley in Devon. OE: beorht + Leah.17th C.

Brighton cc' Y A surname and the seaside town from which it derives. Brighton is famous for the fanciful Royal Pavilion built by King George IV whilst Prince Regent in the early nineteenth century.'The last element is the AngloSaxon tun, but the first is uncertain. It may be OE: brycg "bridge" + ham "settlement," or Beorhthelm (beorht + helm "helmet').The town was still known as Brighthelmstone as late as the eighteenth century. 17th C.

Brightwen Y c~ English surname, deriving from two OE names: Beorhtwynn ? (beorht + Wynn "joy") and Beorhtwine cc (beorht + wine "friend"). Both names survived the Norman Conquest just long enough to produce the surname. 19th C. Var: Brightween.

Brigitte 2 The French, German, and Swedish form of BRIDGET. The Swedish St. Brigitte, however-also known as Birgitte-is different to the Irish; she is fourteenth century, and the ultimate source of her name is uncertain. It is probably the Celtic name, but whether it had arrived in Sweden recently with the cult of the Irish saint or whether it had been carried to Sweden centuries before by the Vikings is unclear. The usual modern Swedish form is Birgit or Birgitta, which is often shortened to Britt-made famous by the actress Britt Ekland (b. 1942).

Brilliana 2 A name which first seems to have been used by the first Lord Conway at the start of the seventeenth century for his daughter born at Brill in Holland. He was governor there at the time.

Brimo ? Epithet of three Greek Goddesses-Demeter, Hecate, and Persephone. Gr: brimaomai "to snort with anger."

Brinley c~ Y English surname, from Brindley in Cheshire. OE: berned "burnt" + leah. 17th C. Var: Brynley; Brynlee (mod).

Brinsley Y English surname, from Brinsley, Nottinghamshire. OE personal name Brun (see Brown) + leak. 19th C. Bearers: Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816), the Irish playwright and poet.

Briog e The name of a Welsh saint identified with Briafael, and also venerated in Brittany. W: bri "fame" + dim. suffix -og. Late 20th C. Var: Brioc, Breock. Fr: Briec, Brieuc, Breton: Brieg.

Brisa Y The name of a mountain on the island of Lesbos, associated with Dionysus. It was also the name of a nymph, who, in one ancient text, was said to have looked after Dionysus when a baby. For whichever reason, Dionysus acquired the epithet Brisaeus. The ultimate source is unknown, though it may conceivably have the same origin as BRISEIS. Meanwhile, in Spanish, brisa means "breeze." "Ibis originally was used to mean a north

wind, or a cold wind; the earlier briza specifically carried the meaning "north-east wind," and was closely related to the Italian brezza "cold wind bringing frost." "The identical Milanese brisa meant "cool wind from the north." 20th C. Var: Briza.

Briseis Y The name of the woman Achilles took as his concubine during the Trojan War-after killing her entire family. When Agamemnon was forced to give up his concubine-acquired in similar circumstances-he requisitioned Briseis. Achilles went into an almighty sulk, and refused to fight anymore-bad news for the Greeks, as he was their champion. The chain of events which followed ultimately led to his death. Her name derives from her father's-Briseus. Gr: brithd "to be weighed down (with something)" and "to prevail." 19th C.

Brisen Y A Witch in Arthurian legend. It may derive from ON: brisinga- interpreted as meaning "glowing" and "twinkling," and associated with Freya's famous necklace, the brisingamen.

Britannia Y The Latin name for Britain, derived from the name of the Pretanni-an early tribe. CC: *mrixto- "variegated" and "painted" (also the source of W: brith "speckled" and its earlier form BRYCHAN). This etymology seems to have been known to the Romans, who bestowed the name Picti (Picts)-"painted ones" in Latin-upon the tribe of the far north. 17th C.

Britannicus a' Latin: Britannicus "of Britain." One of the names of Emperor Claudius after he conquered Britain in 43 CE. He in turn gave it to his son, Tiberius Claudius Caesar Britannicus (41-55 CE). 18th C.

Britomartis Y The name of an ancient Cretan Goddess associated in ancient times with Artemis and Aphaea. According to the myth, she was originally a mortal woman beloved by King Minos. Fleeing his attentions, she leapt into the sea and was transformed into the Goddess in the moment of her death. She is also known as Dictynna. Var: Britomart.

Brittany 2 The name of what is now a French department, but which is as culturally and linguistically distinct from France as Wales is from England. Legend has it that Brittany was colonized by Welsh and Cornish refugees

fleeing Britain from Saxon invaders, after Rome withdrew her legions. Certainly, the Breton language is very closely related to that of Welsh and Cornish, and the name Brittany is etymologically identical to BRITANNIA; Brittany was even called Britannia in medieval times; to distinguish the two in the twelfth century, Brittany was dubbed Britannia Minor "Lesser Britain," while Britain itself became Britannia Major "Greater Britain"-source of the modern "Great Britain" (despite what many Brits think, it has nothing to do with Britain being "great" in any other way whatsoever). The surname Brittany is a variant of Brittain "a Breton." 19th C. Var: Brittani, Brittney, Britney (mod). Bearers: Britney Spears (b. 1981), the American singer.

Brochfael c~ An Old Welsh name; Brochfael was a king mentioned by the legendary poet Taliesin. W: brych "speckled" and "mottled" + mael "prince."

Brock c~ The surname Brock derives from two Old English sources-broc "brook" or "stream," and brocc "badger." Brock is still used as a dialectic word for both in parts of the British Isles. 16th C.

Broderick(' In origin, a Welsh surname deriving from ap Roderick "son of RODERICK." 17th C.

Broderie Y French: broderie anglaise "English embroidery"-a type of embroidery often used for trims and dresses; a piece of fabric in which small holes have been cut to make a pattern-usually of flowers.'The holes are carefully edged like button-holes to prevent fraying.

Brodie Scottish surname, which is partly a variant of BRADY and partly from Brodie in Morayshire. Sc Ga: bruthach "precipice" or brothach "mangy" and "filthy." 18th C. Var: Brody.

Bromius e Epithet of the God Dionysus. Gr: bromios "boisterous" and "noisy" < bromos "roar."

Bronach Y a Irish Gaelic-braon "sorrow" or "sadness." Anglicized as Brona. Var: Bronach, Bronagh.

Bronan e Anglicized form of the Old Irish name Braonan < braon "sorrow" or "sadness."

Bronmai Y Welsh: bran "breast" + Mai "May," or mai "meadow." Early 20th C.

Bronte 2 The adoption of the surname of the famous Bronte sisters-Emily, Charlotte, and Anne. It was initially bestowed in their honor in the nineteenth century; there are several examples of girls receiving the name Charlotte Bronte in particular. The surname was a respelling of the Irish Prunty by their father, Patrick. In 1799 King Ferdinand of the Two Sicilies bestowed the Duchy of Bronte upon Lord Nelson, almost certainly influencing Patrick's choice. Patrick, as a Cambridge-educated clergyman, would also have had a very good grasp of Latin and Greek, and would have known that bronte in Greek means "thunder." His original surname, Prunty, is an Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic O Proinntigh from proinnteach "bestower." Bronte Mitchell is the principal character in the film Green Card (1990).

Bronwen Y Welsh: bran "breast" + gwyn. Mid 19th C. Richard Llewellyn's How Green Was My Valley (1939) made the name familiar throughout the ESW. Dim: Bron. 'The variant Bronwyn is technically male.

Brooke Y e English surname. OE: broc "a brook." Found in use for boys from the seventeenth century; for girls it appeared in the nineteenth, at first as a middle name, reflecting the surname origin. Var: Brook. Bearers: Brooke Shields (b. 1965), the American actress.

Brooklyn Y c~ The name of the famous city in New York State, adjacent to New York City, which derives from the original Dutch name for it-Breukelen "broken land." 19th C. Var: Brooklynn, Brooklynne Y. British footballer David Beckham and his former Spice Girls' wife Victoria gave the name to their first son in 1999.

Bror c~ Found in Sweden and Denmark, this is a contracted form of the older name Broder. ON: bro3ir "brother." Originally used for a second or subsequent son.

Brown c~ English surname. OE: brun "brown" and OF: brun "brown"; both were common nicknames for anyone with dark hair. There was an Old English personal name Brun and a Norse equivalent Brunn, but both were rare by the time of the Norman Conquest. Bruni was a byname for Odin. 17th C. Var: Browne. Brown University in Rhode Island is one of the traditional "Ivy League" universities of America.

Brownie ? a In British folklore, the name of a kindly elf or goblin, found in old houses, which may do jobs to help the people who live there, but sometimes have a mischievous streak. In the author's house, they take great delight in hiding combs and scrunchies. The word dates to the early sixteenth century, and derives from BROWN. The surname Brownie is a variant of Browney. OE: bran "brown" + gage "eye." 18th C.

Bruce c~ Scottish surname, famously borne by King Robert I of Scotland, a.k.a. Robert the Bruce (1274-1329). Its origin is not entirely certain; it was traditionally believed to be taken from Brix in Normandy, but evidence for this is flimsy. First used as a given name in the seventeenth century, in the twentieth it has become particularly associated with Australia; regarded now as an archetypal Australian name and thus used as a generic name for an Australian man. Dim: Brucie. Bearers: Bruce Springsteen (b. 1949) and Bruce Willis (b. 1955)-whose real name is Walter.

Bruma ? Latin: bruma "Winter Solstice."

Brumalia 2 A Roman midwinter festival, held in honor of Bacchus. It derives from BRUMA through the adjective brumalis "belonging to the Winter Solstice."

Brunella 2 A feminine form of BRUNO. Brunella is also the original Latin name of selfheal (see Prunella). The origins of brunella are German, from brunus-the Latinized form of the Old German brun "brown"-probably referring to the color of the sepals. The related Brunel and Brunelle are both obsolete English names for selfheal. 19th C.

Brunette y Although this is a feminine form of BRUNO, it is largely treated as an English adjective meaning "darkhaired" and used almost exclusively

of females. A character called Brunette features in Madame d'Aulnoy's seventeenth-century version of the fairy-tale "Princess Belle-Etoile." 19th C.

Brunhilde Y Old German: brunnia "corset" + hild "battle"-a fitting name for a Valkyrie. In the nineteenth century, it was made well known in the ESW through the operatic works of Wagner. Var: Brunhild, Brynhild.

Bruno e Old German: brun "brown." Bruno is the name of a tenth-century German saint-a former bishop of Cologne. Another Bruno of Cologne founded the Carthusian Order of Monks. Bruno first appeared in Britain in the Middle Ages, probably as a Latinized form of the cognate native name (see Brown). Later examples are almost certainly borrowings from Germany, bestowed by those with German connections, particularly to Cologne. Dim: Bru.

Brutus cc Roman cognomen. L: brutus "heavy" and "dull"-including in the sense of intellectually challenged. A family name of the gens Junia, two members of the family were celebrated in Roman times: the sixth-century BCE Lucius Junius Brutus, who turned Rome into a republic, and Decimus Junius Brutus, one of the assassins of Julius Caesar in the first century BCE. According to Nennius and Geoffrey of Monmouth, Brutus the Trojan-a refugee, like Aeneas, from the fall of Troy-was the first king of Britain.'The name's close resemblance to the English adjective "brute" has prevented the name ever being embraced much in the ESW, though there are examples from the sixteenth century onwards-although in most cases it has appeared alongside Junius, given in honor of one of the bearers of old.

Brychan c3' Old Welsh name, a diminutive of brych "speckled" or "freckled"-thus meaning "little freckled/speckled one." It is borne by Welsh folk-hero Brychan Brycheiniog, who gave his name to Brecon. Reputedly an Irishman by birth, he is somewhat of a one-man saint factory, said to have fathered thirty-six of them altogether. As a figure, he may be a complete invention, created to explain the name of Breconshire; it may also be no coincidence that brych shares the same root as brith-CC: *mrixto-"variegated" and "painted," from which BRITANNIA itself derives. He may well represent a Celtic deity himself too; many-if not most-of his saintly offspring have a distinct aura of the Goddess or God about them. 19th C.

Bryn cc Y Welsh name meaning "hill"-not so surprising when it is remembered Wales is all hills. In some cases, it is a short form of the numerous Welsh names beginning with Bryn-. In Wales itself, Bryn is only ever used as a boy's name, but in America, it is actually more common as a name for girls, especially in the form Bryon. Fem: Bryna. 19th C. Bryn Terfel (b. 1963) is a Welsh baritone.

Brynach cc Old Welsh name, the first element of which may be bryn "hill." It is the name of a fifth-/sixth-century saint who reputedly came from Ireland to Pembrokeshire. Late 19th C.

Bryndis Y Icelandic name. ON: brynja "coat of mail" + dis. This literally meant "sister," but was used to mean "spirit" or "Goddess," referring in particular to the disir-Goddesses of Fate.

Brynmor a' Welsh: bryn "hill" + mawr "big" or mor "sea" the name of a place in Gwynedd. Late 19th C.

Bryonia 2 The Latin for bryony. Gr: bruonia < bruo meaning "to swell"-perhaps a reference to the fact the roots can grow to quite a size (see Bryony). The verb bruo was used of all plants in general, however, to mean "to teem"-especially of blossoms-"to teem with produce," and "to grow luxuriantly"; these also suits the bryony. 20th C.

Bryony Y The name of the wild twining plant of the hedgerows, known for its necklaces of bright red berries. There are two varieties, the white bryony and the black bryony. Ruled by Mars and Fire, it is used in magic in spells relating to protection and money. In the early modern period, bryony roots were used as a substitute for mandrake roots as protective amulets. Moulds were even placed carefully around the living roots for the roots to fill naturally, so that they would pass even more convincingly as mandrakes. Both bryonies have been long used in folk-remedies and herbal medicines, although they are not the safest of plants. Among the conditions they are used to treat are rheumatism and bruising. The name derives from BRYONIA. As a given name, it is often treated as a feminine form of Brian, even though the two names are completely unrelated. 19th C. Var: Briony, Bryonie.

Bryson a' English surname-"son of BRICE." 18th C. Var: Brycen (mod).

Brython cc Old Welsh name meaning "a Briton"-the usual name bestowed upon the inhabitants of Britain before

the Anglo-Saxon invasions. The name shares the same etymology as BRITANNIA. Late 19th C.

Brythonwen Y Welsh: BRYTHON + gwyn. Late 19th C.

Buadhach c~ Old Irish name meaning "victorious" < buaidh "victory."

Buck c~ Adoption of the word "buck" used of young stags. It was first used as a nickname for a spirited young man in the eighteenth century, and is found as a given name from the nineteenth. Bearers: Buck Rogers, hero of the comic strip of the same name, who first appeared in the 1920s.

Bud d Y Bud started out as a short form of BUDDY, but could represent a direct adoption of the English "bud," used of the initial appearance of new growth on plants and trees in the spring, symbolic of new life, youth, and potential. 20th C.

Buddy c~ Y The word "buddy" originated in America in the nineteenth century as an affectionate term for a friend, deriving from "brother." It became a nickname, and started to be used as a given name from the end of the nineteenth century. Bearers: Buddy Holly (1936-59), the musician, whose real first names were Charles Hardin-much use of the name in the latter twentieth century has been in his honor.

Budi c~ Indonesian and Malaysian name. Indonesian/ Malay: budi "mind," "reason," "moral," and "right-minded."

Bully Y Pet-form of ELIZABETH, used as an independent name since the twentieth century. The American television drama Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1997-2003) has made it well known. Dim: Buff (gentle slang in Britain meaning "naked").

Bulan G~ Y Indonesian name. Indonesian: bulan "moon." Bulan also means "moon" in Malay.

Bunny? Principally a nickname, often unrelated to a given name. The word "bunny" has been used as a pet name for a rabbit since at least the seventeenth century, and became a term of endearment for children from the same century, which is how Bunny the nickname probably arose. In the late Middle Ages, bunny also meant "a swelling" or "lump," deriving from the OF: bugne "a swelling." "Ibis is the source of Bunny the surname. Sometimes, Bunny is used as a pet-form of BERNARD or BERENICE. Bearers: Edmund "Bunny" Corcoran is a central character in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (1992).

Bunty Y Deriving from ME: bunting "baby lamb"-specifically one reared by hand-Bunty as a name was originally a term of endearment. William Moffat's play *Bunty Pulls the Strings* (1911), was responsible for Bunty being taken up as a genuine given name.

Burak cc' Turkish name. Ar: buraq-the name of the mythological creature which was said to have carried Mohammed from Mecca to Jerusalem on his "Night Journey" < barq "lightning."

Burgundy Y c~ Burgundy was originally a kingdom then an independent dukedom-of what is now a region of France. Named after a Germanic tribe which moved into the region in the fifth century, it is thought that the original home of the Burgundians may have been the Baltic island now called Bornholm; ON: Burgundaholmr. By the end of the seventeenth century, Burgundy had become particularly well known for its red wine, and by the end of the nineteenth, "burgundy" was being used as a color, which is probably now its principal usage. 20th C.

Buri d' In Norse mythology, Buri was the name of the first God, who was licked from the salty rime by the cow Audulma as she suckled the frost giant Ymir. The etymology is very uncertain. The most likely option is ON: burr, a poetic word for "son; Buri's own son was called Borr, which is definitely from this source.

Buriana 2 Obscure Cornish saint. It almost certainly represents a Latinized form of some Celtic name, though what is difficult to say; an intriguing and plausible possibility would be CC: *berw-f- "to boil," making it cognate with BERW and BORMANNA.

Burt cc In most cases, Burt is either a variant of BERT or a short form of BURTON. However, there is a surname Burt, which evolved as a variant of either BIRD or BRIGHT. 19th C.

Burton cc' English surname, deriving from any of the places called Burton in England. OE: burh "fortress" + tun. 17th C. Dim: BURT. Bearers: Burton "Burt" Reynolds (b. 1936), the American actor.

Buster c' "Buster" arose as slang term in America in the nineteenth century to mean "something admirable" or "breathtaking," and was particularly used of someone (a man) who was flash and impressive. The earlier form was "burster," from the verb "to burst." 19th C. Bearers: Buster Keaton (1895-1966), the American actor, whose real name was Francis.

Buthayna Y Arabic name-bathua "flat, fertile land," a prized commodity in Arabia and the Middle East. Var: Busayna.

Buttercup Y The name of the common but very pretty little yellow flower so beloved by children who delight in holding up a tiny tulip-like bloom beneath the chin to deduce whether or not someone likes butter. It acquired its name, quite literally, from the "butter cup"-a cup for holding butter. 19th C.

Butterfly 2 One of the loveliest of all insects, butterflies enchant people of all ages. Their beauty, delicacy, and grace have always been a source of wonder. Well known for transforming from an egg to a caterpillar, and then from a caterpillar to a butterfly within a chrysalis, they are naturally symbolic of change, transformation, and rebirth. The association of the butterfly and the soul is ancient; the Greek word psyche meant both "soul" and "butterfly." In Serbia, it is believed that butterflies are the souls of Witches.'The word is what it appears to be-a simple combination of butter and FLY. Why it acquired this name in English is a mystery. 20th C.

Buzzard e Y The name of the large bird of prey familiar to many in the wilder parts of the British Isles. The surname Buzzard originated as a nickname; since buzzards were not suitable for the medieval pastime of falconry, they were regarded as an inferior species of hawk, and the word was used as a byword for someone worthless, stupid, or ignorant. ME: busard < OF: busart < L: buteo-the name of a type of falcon or hawk. 19th C. Dim: Buzz.

Byron c' English surname. OE: byre "cow-shed" < byr "cottage" and "bower." It either referred to someone who lived by a cow-shed, or who came from Byram in Yorkshire, which derives its name from the same source. 17th C. Since the nineteenth century, generally bestowed in honor of the flamboyant British poet and adventurer George Gordon Byron, 6th Lord Byron (1784-1824).

Cade c~ English surname. In part, it derives from the medieval name Cada, of either Old English or Welsh origin. If Old English, it could be a hypocoristic form of CUTHBERT; if Welsh, from one of the many names beginning cad "battle." On other occasions, Cade derives from ME: cade, an old word for a young animal abandoned by its mother and raised as a domestic pet. Lastly, there is the OF: cade "cask" or "barrel," which may have been used as a nickname for someone as round as a barrel or a barrel-maker. 18th C. Var: Kade. Bearers: Cade Calvert, a character in *Gone with the Wind*.

Cadell c~ Old Welsh name-cad "battle"+ gell "yellow" and "bright." It was borne by more than one member of a Welsh princely house between the tenth and twelfth centuries and may be partly responsible for the surname Cadell. There are other sources for this, however. One is ME: caudel < Late L: caldellum "hot drink"-used of a type of spiced gruel given to the sick, in particular women in childbed. It may have been used as a nickname in the same spirit that "sick-note" is sometimes used today. Another source are places called Caldwell, etc.-OE: ceald "cold" + wella "spring" or "stream." 18th C.

Caden c~ Y There is a rare surname Caden, probably deriving from the Irish MacCadden meaning "son of Cadan." Cadan is an Old Irish name, probably deriving from CC: *kato- "battle" + dim. suffix -an. It is first found as a given name in the nineteenth century, and its more general use since the latter twentieth century is largely due to its similarity to a group of other names-namely Aidan, Jayden, Braden, Hayden, etc. Var: Caidan, Caiden, Cayden, Kaden, Kadin, Kaeden, Kaiden, Kayden, Kaydyn, Kayden.

Cadence y "Cadence" was originally used of the rhythmical construction of a piece or verse, or the rhythmical speed of music. Later it came to mean modulation-of music or even the spoken word-and also to denote the end of a phrase in a musical piece. Fr: cadence < It: cadenza < L: cado "to fall." First used as a name in Cornwall in the eighteenth century. Var: Kadence, Kaydence, Cadenza, Kadenza.

Cadeyrn G~ Ancient Welsh name, used since at least the fifth century-a son of Vortigern bore the older version Catigern. CC: *katu- "battle" + *tigerno- "lord." Revived 20th C.

Cadfael a' Old Welsh: cad "battle" + mael "prince." This Old Welsh name was made familiar by Ellis Peter's novels about a medieval monk, which was turned into a television series in the 1990s. It was also the name of a king of Gwynedd and an early saint. Early 20th C.

Cadmus c~ The founder of the Greek city of Thebes. He was a Phoenician by birth, the brother of Europa, and famous for sowing the teeth of a dragon from which sprang up fully armed men. They immediately began to fight among themselves, and only five survived-the Sparti-from whom the Thebans descended. Through his daughter Semele, he was the grandfather of the God Dionysus. Cadmus was also credited with first bringing the alphabet to Greece from Phoenicia. The meaning of his name is unknown; it is probably pre-Greek, possibly Semitic, given his origins in the tale. 20th C.

Cado cc Welsh pet-form of practically any Welsh name beginning with cad "battle." Indeed, even in Roman Britain, its predecessor Catu is attested, testifying to the great age of these names.

Cadogan c~ Anglicized form of Old Welsh Cadwgan- cad "battle" + gwogawn "honor" or "glory." It was borne by a number of prominent Welshmen in medieval times, and survived in use long enough to produce the surname, which is largely responsible for examples of the name since the eighteenth century.

Cador cc The name of Guinevere's guardian in Arthurian Romance. It is probably derived from a Welsh name such as CADEYRN, or its Cornish cognate. It is not even beyond the realms of possibility that it derives ultimately from the name of the Celtic God Belactucadros.

Cadwal c Old Welsh: cad "battle" and gwal "leader." This Old Welsh name-closely related to CADWALLON and CADWALADR-has been used since at least the seventh century. It became obsolete in the early Middle Ages, but was resurrected in Wales in the nineteenth century.

Cadwaladr c3' Old Welsh: cad "battle" + gwaladr "leader." One of the more familiar Old Welsh names due to the relatively widespread nature of the surname which derives from it. The name was a favorite in Wales from at least the seventh century, and is one of the few Celtic names never to have fallen out of use, though from the seventeenth century, use of the surname has bolstered it.

Cadwallon c~ Old Welsh: cad "battle" + gwallon "ruler," in use since at least the seventh century, it fell out of use in the Middle Ages, but returned in the nineteenth century.

Cadwy c~ The name of the son of Geraint in Arthurian Romance. OW cad "battle" + suffix -wy.

Cadwyn c~ Y This looks like a classic Welsh name, but is actually an adoption of W: cadwyn "chain." 20th C.

Cady 2 Cady is generally considered a phonetic spelling of KATIE, as pronounced in North America. However, it does first appear in the late nineteenth century in use largely as a middle name for boys and girls, which suggest that it was first used as an adoption of a surname. The surname seems to be of Irish origin, and is probably an Anglicized form of O Ceadaigh "descendant of Ceadach." Ceadach is almost certainly just a byname or nickname-an adoption of It Ga: ceadach "talkative." Var: Kady.

Caelia Y Feminine of Caelius, a Roman gens. L: caelum "sky." Usually Anglicized as CELIA. It occurs in Arthurian Romance as the name of a fairy queen, and is used by Spenser in The Faerie Queene as the name of the ruler of the "House of Holiness"-aided by her daughters Fidelia, Speranza, and Charissa (i.e. Faith, Hope, and Charity). 18th C.

Caer Y In Irish mythology, Caer was a maiden who was able to change her shape; she spent alternate years in the form of a swan. The etymology is uncertain, but it is probably OI: cder "berry." A later form caor means "rowan-berry." Caer is also the Welsh name for the medieval city of Chester. W: caer "fort" < L. castrum "fort," "camp."

Caerwyn cc Welsh: caer "fort" + gwyn. Early 20th C.

Caesar cc The surname of the eternally famous Gaius Julius Caesar (100-44 BCE), dictator of Rome. Having no son, he adopted his great nephew Octavius in his will, afterwards known as Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus, who became Rome's first emperor. The name Caesar came to be associated with the imperial house, and specifically those in line for the imperial succession. In time it came to be regarded as a title-and this is the origin of the Russian word tsar and German kaiser. Its actual meaning has been the subject of much debate. In Roman times it was believed to be related to L: caesaries "head of hair," but it is quite likely that it is in fact Etruscan in origin and its true meaning long lost. 16th C. It: Cesare, Fr: Cesar, Port, Rom: Cesar. Bearers: Cesar Franck (1822-90), the Belgian composer.

Caesia Y Epithet of the Goddess Minerva. L: caesius "bluish-grey"-used specifically to the color of her eyes (In Greek literature she is habitually known as "gray-eyed Athene").

Cahaya Y Indonesian and Malaysian name. Indonesian/ Malay: cahaya "light." Var: Cahya.

Cai cc Welsh form of GAIUS. In use in the Middle Ages, it was one of the sources of the surname Kay. Revived 19th C. Var. KAI. Dim: Caio.

Cailitin cc The name of a Druid in Irish mythology, Cailitin was the chief Druid of Queen Medb of Connacht. He and his sons were killed in battle by Cu Chulainn-although they were trying to cheat by using poisoned spears. The etymology is very uncertain. It may, possibly, be a diminutive of the Middle Irish calad "harbor." Var: Calatin, Calatin.

Cailleach Y The name of a Scottish Goddess, the Crone who, in the Scottish myth, washes her linen at Samhain and lays it out to dry all over the land until the following spring in the form of blankets of snow. Sc Ga: cailleach "woman" particularly a single and elderly woman without children. The word is also used of the last handful of corn standing in a field. The cailleach of corn was tied up with a ribbon and hung on a nail until the spring. When ploughing began, it was given to the horses for good luck. 20th C.

Cain c~ 2 The male name Cain is biblical-the murderer of his brother Abel.'This less than attractive association didn't stop Puritans breezily giving the name to their offspring from the sixteenth century or so. Cain is also a variant of KANE, which accounts for some of its use, and a Welsh girl's name-the cognate of KEYNE.

Cainneach e Old Irish: cain "kind" and "beautiful." More than one Irish saint bears the name, including the sixth-century one who gave his name to the historic town of Kilkenny. It was Latinized as Canicius, from which the old Anglicized form Canice derived, but more often than not today Kenny or Kenneth are used. Var: Coinneach.

Cairbre d Traditional Irish Gaelic name. 01: cairb "chariot"-hence "charioteer." It was borne by a legendary third-century king of Ireland. Anglicized as Carbre or Carbry.

Cairenn Y In Irish mythology, Cairenn is the mother of Niall of the Nine Hostages. In medieval accounts she is said to have been Saxon, but this is likely an anachronism which crept in. Described as a daughter of the King of Britain, it is more likely that she was Romano-British and that Cairenn represents an Irish form of CARINA. Var: Caireann.

Caitlin 2 Irish Gaelic form of KATHERINE, more correctly written Caitlin and pronounced "kat-LEEN"; the "t" said so breathily that it sometimes verges on a "th" sound (in the same way as Irish speakers in the Republic generally pronounce words containing a "th"). In the nineteenth century, it was Anglicized as KATHLEEN. Caitlin derived originally from Cateline, a medieval form of Katherine. It was taken up generally in the ESW in the twentieth century, and now comes in numerous spelling variations, such as Caitlyn, Kaitlin, Kaitlyn, Katelyn, Katelynn, and Katlyn. Dim: Cait (Ir Ga); Cate, KATE, KATIE. Bearers: Caitlin Matthews (b. 1952), the British shaman, writer, and singer-songwriter; Caitlin R. Kiernan (b. 1964), the Irish-born, American Wiccan novelist.

Calamint Y A herb much valued in the past, but not much used anymore. A herb of Mercury, one of its principal uses was as a contraceptive or to induce abortions. Common calamint is, however, still occasionally used as

a culinary herb. The name derives from its Latin name Calamintha < Greek kalamithe < kalos "beautiful" + minthe "mint."

Calchas a A legendary Greek seer who accompanied the armies of Agamemnon to Troy. Gr: kalkhe "murex"-the name of a type of shell famous in the ancient world for the expensive purple dye produced from it.

Calder c~ ? English and Scottish surname. The English is from one of the rivers of the name in the British Isles. The Scottish is from one of the rivers or from Cawdor in Caithness. All seem to share the same origin of CC: *kaleto- "hard" or *kall- "grove" + dubro- "dart"-later "(dark) water." 18th C.

Cale c~ Y English surname. OF: cale "caul"-a type of medieval headress. Cale is also the name of a river in Dorset. Its origin is probably Celtic, and there are a number of possible options. The most likely is CC: *kall- "wood" and "grove." 17th C. Var: Cayle, KALE.

Caleb cc Biblical name. Heb: kaleb "dog." Unlike their positive status in the Celtic world, it is clear from the Bible that dogs were reviled in Judaea, making it a particularly odd choice of name-something which has puzzled biblical scholars for years. All kinds of theories abound, the most likely being that Caleb is simply the Hebrew form of a name of non-Hebrew origin. Given the fact that no vowels were recorded in Hebrew until the late Roman period, it is quite possible Caleb didn't originally mean "dog." Not that it matters much-as most people in the West today probably identify with the Celtic attitude to the animal. 16th C. Var: Kaleb.

Calendula Y Botanical name for the English marigold. It was coined in the late nineteenth century as a diminutive of L: calendae. This is a variant of kalendae "the Calends"-the first day of the month, from which we also get calendaracquiring the name because it can flower all year.

Caliadne Y A Greek nymph who lived in the waters of the Nile and was a wife of Aegyptus. Gr: kalos "beautiful" + adnos, a Cretan form of hagnos "pure."

Calico Y A type of printed cotton. It derives from the Indian city of Calicut (now called Kozhikode). It was a major port in the past for the export of Indian goods, and the word "calico" is noted in use in English from the sixteenth century. 20th C.

Calitan ' Y Chinook: calitan "arrow."

Calixta 2 Spanish and Portuguese name from the Late Latin Callixtus. There were three popes called Callixtus or Callistus; the first in the third century, the other two in the Middle Ages. It is highly likely that the first of these was originally Callistus from Gr: kallistos "most beautiful"-a common name during the Pagan Roman Empire among Greeks, former slaves, and their descendants. Either by accident or deliberately, some monk in the centuries after the third century decided to alter Callistus to Callixtus, to make it look as if it derived from Gr: calix "goblet" or "chalice"-a reference to the cup used at the Last Supper (i.e. the "Holy Grail"). It: Calista. Bearers: Calista Flockhart (b. 1964), the American actress.

Calla Y An exotic tender flower with large, showy blooms, named by Linnaeus in the eighteenth century. Gr: kalos "beautiful." 19th C.

Callianassa ? One of the Nereids. Gr: kalos "beautiful" + anassa "queen." Very similar is the name of one of her sisters, Callianeira-Gr: kalos + neiros "lowest"-thus "youngest" or neiros "strong" and "vehement."

Calligena Y Epithet of both Demeter and Gaia. Gr: kalos "beautiful" + -genos "born."

Calliope Y Greek: kalos "beautiful" + ops "face." Calliope was one of the Muses. She is often regarded as the chief of the Muses, in charge of Epic Poetry. She was the mother of Orpheus.

Callirhoe Y Three characters in Greek mythology are called Callirhoe-two the daughters of river Gods, and one of the Oceanids. Gr: kalos "beautiful" + rhoe "stream."

Callista Y Modern name based either on CALLISTO, or an adaption of Calista-the Italian form of CALIXTA. It could also be a Latinized form of

the Greek Kalliste < kallistos "most beautiful"-this has been used as a name in Greece since ancient times. Mod Gr: Kallisti.

Callisto Y Greek: kallistos "most beautiful." In Greek mythology, Callisto was a beautiful young maiden who was a favorite of Artemis. Inevitably, she attracted the attentions of Zeus, who disguised himself as Artemis to gain her confidence, which he promptly abused. To protect her from the wrath of Hera, he transformed her into a bear. Versions vary as to what happened next but agree that Callisto was eventually placed among the constellations as Ursa Major-the Great Bear (colloquially known as the Plough or the Big Dipper). Hera, meanwhile, still got her revenge; she persuaded the sea Goddess Tethys and her husband Oceanus never to allow Callisto to enter their realm; which is why the Great Bear never sets. The child of the union between Zeus and Callisto was Arcas, who eventually became Ursa Minor-the Little Bear. In reality Callisto probably represents some aspect of Artemis, who is very closely associated with the bear. 20th C.

Calluna 2 The botanical name form for heather-*Calluna vulgaris*. Gr: kalluno "to beautify" and "to sweep clean." Invented in the nineteenth century by the British botanist R. A. Salisbury. 20th C.

Calpurnia Y Feminine form of Calpurnius, the name of a famous Roman gens. It was famously borne by the wife of Julius Caesar. The etymology is unknown; it is possibly Etruscan, but may possibly be connected with L: carbo "burnt wood." 20th C.

Calum a' Scots Gaelic form of COLUMBA. It was common in Scotland in medieval times, and never quite died out prior its revival in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth, it spread to the rest of the ESW. Var: Callum, Colum. Dim: Cal.

Calumet 2 c~ The Native American "pipe of peace." Fr: chalumeau < L: calumus "reed." It was bestowed on the pipe by French Canadians. 20th C.

Calvin cc Calvin is a name unlikely to appeal to most Pagans; its adoption as a given name in the seventeenth century, principally in America, was in honor of the French Protestant theologian Jean Calvin (1509-64). However,

the name's origin, through the Medieval French, is ultimately L: calvus "bald," and Calvus-and its diminutive Calvinus- were both very common surnames in Pagan Rome. Bearers: Calvin Klein (b. 1942), the American fashion designer.

Calypso Y Greek: kalos "beautiful" + upsos "height." In Homer's The Odyssey, in which Calypso features prominently, the adverb upsi was specifically used in the sense of "on the high sea," a fitting nuance for the name of the nymph who kept Odysseus captive on her little island (often identified as Gozo) as her love-slave for seven years. Recently, Calypso has featured as the name of a sea Goddess in the Pirates of the Caribbean films (2003-), presumably because her name is more familiar than those of any of the sea Goddesses of Antiquity, and because the name is associated with the Caribbean through Calypso music. 19th C.

Cam c~ Y Often used as the short form of names such as CAMERON and CAMPBELL, Cam is also the name of the river which runs through the historic university city of Cambridge in England.'This is in fact a back-formation, taken from Cambridge itself, which evolved from its old name of Grontabricc.'The river's original name was Granta. It probably derives from CC: *kambo- "curve" or "bend" from which also comes the Gaelic cam "crooked," "bent"-and now also "dishonest"-the first element of Cameron and Campbell. Cambo is attested as a personal name in Gaul in the Roman period. Cam is also a Vietnamese girl's name meaning "orange." Meanwhile, in Romani, cam means both "sun" and "to love"-the latter deriving from San: kama.

Camden c~ English surname deriving from Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire. OE: camp "enclosed land" + denu "valley." It is now mostly associated with Camden Town-a London Borough-which is famous for its markets. Late 18th C.

Camellia Y The attractive flowering tree introduced to the West from China in the eighteenth century. Associated with the Moon and Water, camellias are said to bring wealth. In the language of flowers, they symbolize admiration and perfection, although each color carries particular meaningred, for instance, means "you are a flame in my heart." The

camellia was named by Linnaeus after a Jesuit called Kamel, who was from Moravia. Kamel is also the Moravian form of CAMILLUS. Late 19th C.

Camelot c' Y The legendary court of King Arthur. Where Camelot was-and whether it really existed-has been debated for centuries. The favorite location is Tintagel, but Cadbury Castle, Caerleon, Caerwent, Winchester, and Wroxeter are just some of the places put forward as contenders. The name itself is most likely a corruption of Camulodunum, the Roman name for Colchester-CAMULUS + CC: *d3no- "fort." This doesn't mean that Colchester was Camelot; there may have been at least one other-Camulodunum was probably the name of a small fort at Slack in Yorkshire. But Camelot may never have really existed outside fiction; it receives no mention prior to Chretien de Troyes, writing in the twelfth century. 20th C.

Camena Y An indigenous Latin name for a muse; the older form was Casmena, from a proto-Latin root *kas meaning "sing"-the same source as CARMEN.

Cameron (' ? In Scotland, there are two distinct families of this name, the Highland clan-which derives from Sc Ga: camshron "hook nose"-and the Lowland Camerons, who take their name from the town of Cameron in Fife. As a given name, it first appeared in the eighteenth century in Scotland. In the latter twentieth century, it has come into general use for girls-largely on account of the American actress Cameron Diaz (b. 1972). Var: Kameron, Camron, Camren, Kamron, Camryn, Kamryn (mod). Sc Ga: Camran.

Camilla Y The name given to a noble Roman girl who aided the Flamen Dialis-one of the chief Roman priesthoods-during rituals. It derives from the same root as CAMENA and CARMEN; an older form was Casmilla. In Roman legend, Camilla was the name of a warrior Queen of the Volsci who was killed in battle by one of Aeneas's companions. Her supernatural ability to run so fast that she could cross a field of wheat without so much as bending a grass-or over the sea without wetting her feet-suggests she may have divine origin. The source of her name is uncertain; it may be the same as the Latin, but it may also derive from another source, given the fact she wasn't Roman. Vergil in the Aeneid tells how her father named her: "This tender babe, companion of his woes/Casmilla was her mother; but he

drown'd/One hissing letter in a softer sound/And call'd Camilla." First used in the sixteenth century, Mme D'Arblay's novel *Camilla* (1796) did much to promote it. Dim: MILLIE. Port, Sp: Camila, Fr: Camille, Cz, Pol, Slk: KAMILA. Bearers: Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall (b. 1947), wife of the Prince of Wales; Camilla Macaulay, a principal character in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (1992).

Camillus e A camillus was a noble Roman boy who, like a camilla, assisted a Flamen Dialis in sacrifices, and shares the same origin. It became a cognomen, most notably of the gens Furia-Marcus Furius Camillus (c. 446-365 BCE) was hailed "the Second Founder of Rome" after it was sacked by Gauls in 387 BCE. It was in his honor that the name was taken up in the eighteenth century. Fr: Camille, It: Camillo, Sp: Camilo.

Campbell c' Y Scottish clan name, deriving from Sc Ga: caimbeul "crooked mouth." 17th C. In recent years, it has started to see increased use for girls.

Campion e Y English surname. ME: campiun "champion"-referring to someone who fought on behalf of someone else < L: campio "a champion" < campus "a field (of battle)." Campion is also the name of a small wild flower. Its Latin name is *Lychnis coronaria*, as it was said in ancient times that the campion was used to make chaplets and wreaths; this was later understood to mean for those who were "champions" in some field or other. 17th C.

Camulos c An important Celtic God. CC: *kamulo "champion." Camulogenus and Camulorix are both attested names of Celts in Roman Britain, the former almost certainly carrying the explicit meaning of "born of Camulos." His name also occurs in Britain's first capital city, Camulodunum-"Camulos's fort"-now called Chelmsford.

Can cc Turkish name-can "soul," "life," "energy," "vitality," "strength," and "dear." It is also used to mean "friend" and "disciple," specifically by brothers of the Turkish Dervish (Sufi) orders.

Candace Y A dynastic name of queens of Ethiopia in ancient times. Its origin is unknown, but it occurs in the New Testament. 16th C. Var:

Candice. Dim: CANDY. There is a character of the name in William Faulkner's novel *The Sound and the Fury* (1929).

Candela Y Latin: candela "candle" < candeo "to be brilliant," "to shine," and "to glitter"-ultimately deriving from the same PIE root from which CHANDRA derives. 20th C.

Candelaria Y The Spanish name for Candlemas, used as a girl's name in Spain. Some of its use there, however, is to commemorate Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, a title of the Virgin Mary deriving from the town of Candelaria in Tenerife, which is named in honor of a statue of the Virgin allegedly found nearby in the fourteenth century. The statue held an infant and a green candle-hence the name of the town, from L: CANDELA. The cult of "Our Lady of Candelaria" has since spread to Africa and South America. In Nigeria, she is linked with the Goddess Oya.

Candia Y The old name for Heraklion in Crete, which was first bestowed in the eighteenth century upon English children born there or otherwise connected with the place. Ar: khandaq "moat."

Candida ? Latin: candidus "shining white." English candidate also derives from it; in the days of Ancient Rome, a candidate for election made himself stand out by sporting a bleached white toga. In Church Latin, it became associated with spiritual purity, and so it is not surprising to find it ascribed by the hagiographers to a first-century saint. The name St. Candida is also used for St. Whyte in Britain which came first is rather more difficult to say. 17th C. Dim: CANDY. Bearers: Candida Morell, principal character of George Bernard Shaw's *Candida* (1898).

Candide d French name. L: candidus "shining white." The name of the eponymous hero of Voltaire's play *Candide* (1759), turned into an opera by Leonard Bernstein in 1956. 20th C.

Candle 2 e Latin: CANDELA. Candles have long been symbolic of light and life-particularly spiritual life-as well as fire. They play a prominent part in many religions, and Paganism is no exception. Candles are used to symbolize the element of Fire on altars or in a circle, and they are also used in meditation. Witches may also use them in working spells. The surname

Candle derives directly from "candle," and was first used metonymically of someone who made or sold candles. 19th C.

Candlemas Y cc A Christian festival held on St. Bridget's day-almost certainly taking over an earlier Pagan celebration. Today, many Pagans call it by the Gaelic name Imbolg or Imbolc-although Candlemas remains popular, evocative as it is of light. One of the features of the Catholic festival was the making and blessing of candles for the coming year, which many Pagans see as a direct link to Bridget in her capacity as a Goddess of fire. 17th C.

Candor e Y A word which has come to mean "frankness" and "sincerity" in English. L: candor. It carried the same meaning in ancient times, although its original meaning was "dazzling whiteness," as well as luster. The expression candor solis was used by the Roman writer Cicero to mean "dazzling whiteness of the sun," and it was also used with reference to the Milky Way. 20th C.

Candy ? Candy's use as a given name arose through its use as a short form of names beginning with Cand- particularly CANDACE. There is also a surname Candy, in part a variant of Condry and Cundy. OF: conduit "pipe" and "water-channel" -later used of a public water pump or fountain. It is also a variant of Condie, deriving from Conde-the name of more than one place in France, which shares the same origin as conduit. Candy first appeared as a given name in the nineteenth century, largely in middle-name use for boys and girls, implying that the name being bestowed was the surname; the parents of Love Candy Chaffey, registered in Dorset, England, in 1853, and Love Candy Garret in 1870 (a relation) were probably not expressing a wish that their children become sugar fiends. It came into first-name use at the end of the nineteenth century, by which time it may have become associated with the word "candy," which comes from Fr: sucre candi "crystallized sugar" < San: khanda "piece" and "stem." Var: Candi, Kandy, Kandi (mod).

Canidia 2 A Witch in a poem by the Roman poet Horace. She is not portrayed in a flattering way, but then the Roman State had an abhorrence and fear of Witchcraft not that dissimilar to the medieval Church's. It was probably created by Horace from L: canus "whitish-grey" and "hoary"-

associated with the old. It was also used of Charon, the ferryman of the Greek and Roman Underworld, and thus carried connotations of death and the supernatural. Ultimately, it shares the same roots as CANDELA.

Caninus d A king of a part of Britain (which part isn't exactly known)- whose full name was Aurelius Caninus. He ruled in the sixth century, and was denounced vehemently

by his contemporary, Gildas the Monk. He also featured in Geoffrey of Monmouth's twelfth-century *Historia Regum Britanniae*. Sometimes called Conanus, his name is either from L: can is "dog" or its CC cognate *kwon- which carried more the sense of "hunting hound." As Caninus was almost certainly Romano-British, either is possible; native kings of the period would have been fluent in both Latin and Brythonic.

Canna Y Tropical flower with large, colorful, lily-like blooms. Gr: kanna "reed." Canna is also the name of an island in Scotland which has the Gaelic name Canaigh, the meaning of which is unclear; it may be related to the Irish Gaelic for a wolf-pup, the Scots Gaelic for a porpoise, or the Old Norse for "knee"-a reference to its shape. Late 19th C.

Canny Y c~ Mostly encountered today in the adjective "uncanny," the Scottish and Northern English dialect word "canny" means "knowing," "sagacious," and "cautious." 19th C.

Canopus c~ A city in Egypt, which, according to legend, got its name from a Greek hero who died from a snake-bite while in Egypt-Canopus is the site of his tomb. Canopus is also the traditional name of Alpha Carinae in the constellation Carina-once part of the great ancient constellation Argo-and is the second brightest star in all the sky. It too is named after the Greek hero-who was said to have been the Argo's helmsman. It is popularly said to mean "golden earth" in Egyptian.'The Egyptian bit is probably right, though the rest is fanciful.'The closest is xt-nb "gilden wood," but there is no certainty this is the source.

Canute c~ Traditional English form of Danish KNUD, famously borne by King Canute (d. 1035), who was notorious for attempting to order the tide to turn. What is often left out of the tale is that he was trying to give his

courtiers a lesson, and when the tide, of course, did not turn, he turned to them and said, "Let all men know how empty and worthless is the power of kings, for there is none worthy of the name, but He whom heaven, earth, and sea obey by eternal laws."The story is probably apocryphal anyway. The name was used in Britain during the Viking period and may have survived after the Norman Conquest for a time as Note, Nute, Nut, Nutkin. As Canute, the name reappeared in the late eighteenth century. Var: Cnut.

Caoilthionn 2 Old Irish name-caol "slender" + fionn. Anglicized relatively recently as Keelin. Var: Caelainn, Caelfind, Caoilinn. See also Kaylin.

Caoimhe y Irish Gaelic: caoimhe "gentleness," "loveliness," and "grace." Caoimhe was the name of a daughter of Finn McCool, who was given in marriage to Goll mac Morna in an attempt at reconciliation-Goll had killed Finn's father. Anglicized as Keva and Keeva. 19th C.

Caoimhin c3' Old Irish name-caoimhe "gentleness," "loveliness," and "grace," or caomh "comely" and "beloved" + suffix -in. Anglicized as KEVIN.

Caolan c' Old Irish name-caol "slender"+ dim. suffix -dn. Anglicized as Kelan. Var: Caelan.

Capella 2 Traditional name of Alpha Aurigae in the constellation of Auriga-the charioteer. L: capella "she-goat." It used to belong to the ancient constellation of Capra "the goat," said to be Amalthea-or Amalthea's goat-the nurse of the infant Zeus. Vestiges of this ancient constellation survive in the way that the "charioteer" is often depicted carrying a goat. 19th C.

Capitolinus cc Epithet of Jupiter, taken from the name of the hill in Rome on which Jupiter's principal temple was situated. L: Capitulum "the Capitol"-the name of Jupiter's temple < cap at "head" and "chief"

Caprice Y "Caprice" at best means "change of mind on a whim" and at worst "fickleness." It: capriccio "sudden start" < L: capra "goat"-a reference to the way a goat frisks. Early 20th C.

Capricorn 2 c~ The constellation and sign of the zodiac, sometimes called "the Goat." Contrary to popular belief, Capricorn is not the goat which suckled Zeus as an infant. That goat did become a constellation-Capra-which was absorbed by Auriga long ago. Capricorn actually represents a mythical sea-goat-often depicted as part goat and part fish-and dates to the Bronze Age, if not earlier. L: capra "goat" + cornu "horn." In astrology, it is said to be ruled by Saturn and aligned with the element of Earth. Its birthstone is traditionally the garnet, but onyx and ruby are sometimes used also. Among the characteristics Capricorns are said to possess are loyalty and diligence; they tend to be mindful of tradition and be serious, practical creatures. Late 20th C.

Caprotina Y Epithet of Juno. L: caprotinus "of goats."

Cara Y Italian: cara "beloved." Used in Italy as a term of endearment. Its adoption as a name in the ESW prob ably owes much to CORA. It is not used as a given name in modern Italy, although it may have been found there in Roman times; L: carus "dear"-from which Cara ultimately derives-was used as a surname in the days of the Roman Empire. Cara also means "a friend" in Irish Gaelic, deriving from CC: *kar-o- "to love"-cognate with the Latin. Var: KARA. 19th C.

Caractacus c' Anglicized as CARADOC and the source of CARADOG and CARTHAC, Caractacus is the name of one of the great heroes of Celtic Britain, though we know his name only through the writings of Romans. CC: *kar-o"love" + suffix *-ako-. Early 19th C. Var: Caratacus. Bearers: Caractacus Potts, hero of the film Chitty Chitty, Bang Bang (1968), based on Ian Fleming's 1964 childrens book.

Caradoc cc Usual Anglicized form of CARADOG-and thus also of CARACTACUS-by which name Caractacus is often known, especially in medieval and early modern literature. Late 17th C. Var: Caradock.

Caradog Welsh form of CARACTACUS. In some Welsh myths he was made a son of Bran. It remained popular in Wales well into the Middle Ages, giving rise to the surname Craddock. Revived 19th C. Var: Caradawg, Cradawc (hist).

Carausius c~ Late fourth-century British-born Roman Emperor. His name may be Celtic; possibly deriving from *kar-o- "love" or *karwo- "deer" + *wesu- "excellent" or "noble" or even the theonym ESUS, both of which were common in Celtic personal names.

Caraway c' Y The name of the herb, noted for its fragrant seeds. Today it is best known as a culinary herb, but it has long been prized in medicine and magic for its numerous properties. Ruled by Mercury and Air, there is a very old folk-belief that caraway prevents things from being stolen, and lovers from being fickle. It can also protect against bad spirits and negativity in general. In medicine, it is valued for its ability to relieve indigestion-simply chewing the seeds can ease it-and for soothing colic in babies. Most of its use now, however, is just culinary, and this is no new thing. Even the roots were eaten in former days-comparable to parsnips. In Tudor times, a small dish of caraway was often served up with roasted apples-a tradition still encountered here and there in England-while the seeds are still used in regional breads and cakes. Medieval Latin: carvi < carum < Gr: KARON. It has parallels in Arabic and Hebrew, but the original source is unknown. It is tempting, however, to link it to Akkadian: kardbu "to bless"; an identical noun meant "blessing" and karbu "blessed." 20th C.

Cardew cc English surname, deriving from Cardew in Cumbria. W: caer "castle" and "fort" + du "black"-or rather the Cumbric cognates of these. 18th C.

Careen Y Variant of CARA or CARINA with the ending -een, possibly inspired by CAIRENN. Late 19th C. Bearers: Careen O'Hara, Scarlett's sister in *Gone with the Wind*.

Carew c~ Y English surname, deriving either as a variant of CARY or from Carew in Pembrokeshire. The latter derives from W: caer "castle" and "fort" + rhiw "ice." A dramatic and romantic ruined castle still stands there. 16th C.

Carina Y Carina was first used as a given name in Roman times as the feminine of the cognomen CARINUS; Carina is attested on a Roman inscription found in Dorchester. The word carina also meant "keel" in Latin,

and was given to a constellation in the eighteenth century, which was created when the ancient constellation of Argo was carved up. Much of its use, however, has been as an elaboration of KAREN, inspired by the German and Scandinavian Karena, Karina, and Karine. 18th C.

Carinus e Epithet of Apollo, deriving from Caria in Asia Minor where he was worshipped. Carius-also meaning "of Carius"-is an epithet of Zeus. Carinus was also a Roman cognomen meaning "of Carus" < L: carus "dear," "beloved," and "esteemed." The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius Carus (c. 230-283 CE) was succeeded by his son Marcus Aurelius Carinus (d. 285 CE). 20th C.

Carissima 2 Latin: carissimus "most dear" and "dearest," superlative of earns "dear." 19th C.

Carl c~ Carl's use as a given name since the nineteenth century is largely as a variant of KARL. However, there is also an English surname Carl.'This derives in part from CHARLES, which in the Middle Ages tended to be appear as Carl and Carle. Some use predates the Norman Conquest and probably evolved from the Norse cognate Karli, which had been introduced by the Vikings. In general, however, it comes directly from ME: carl "man" < OE: ceorl "freeman of the lowest class." Some use of Carl, therefore, prior to the twentieth century, may well be the surname, rather than the Germanic Karl-although the two are still cognate. Carl is

also used as a short form of CARLTON. Bearers: Carl Linnaeus (1707-78), the Swedish Botanist; Carl Orff (1895-1982), the German composer; Carl Jung (1875-1961), the Swiss psychiatrist.

Carla 2 Italian feminine of Carlo, the Italian form of CHARLES, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century either as a feminine form of CARL or a truncated form of CAROLINE. Var: Karla.

Carlene Y Late nineteenth-century elaboration of Carla with the suffix -ene. Carleen, Carline, Carlyn, Carlynn, Karleen, Karlene, Karline, Karlyn, and Karlynn are all attested, though some of these may have been inspired more by CAROLINE than CARLA. Given they ultimately share the same origin, it doesn't really matter much.

Carlisle cc English surname, taken from Carlisle in Cumbria. Its name in Roman times was Luguvalium, deriving from the Brythonic name Luguvalus-CC: LUGUS +*walo- "prince." Whether this was a personal name or theonym is unclear-though the latter is probably more likely. By the early twelfth century, the town had become Carleol- the second element being a corrupted form of Luguvalium, while the first element is the Cumbrian equivalent of W: caer "castle" and "fort."his was used particularly of places where a Roman fortress had once been. 17th C. Var: Carlile, Carlyle. Bearers: Carlisle Cullen, a character in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series (2005-8).

Carlton c~ English surname, deriving from a number of places called Carlton or Carleton. OE: ceorl "freeman of the lowest class" + tun. 17th C. Dim: CARL. Var: Carleton.

Carly 2 Carly probably started out as a pet-form of CARLA, but was swiftly taken up as a variant. Var: Carlee, Carley, Carlie, Carleigh, Karlee, Karleigh, Karlie, Karleigh, Karly.

Carman 2 In Irish mythology, Carman is said to have been an Athenian sorceress and female warrior, who tried to take Ireland from the Tuatha De Danann.'The origin of her name is not at all clear; the first element may be CC: *karo"love," and there is an outside chance that it is a corruption of garbadn-a diminutive of garbh "wild" (see Carravogue), perhaps influenced by CARMEN.'This may also explain the Greek element creeping into the story.

Carmel Y Hebrew: kerem "vinyard" and "garden." Carmel was the name of a mountain in Palestine which in ancient times was famous for its fertility.'The Crusaders built a monastery there, dedicated to "Our Lady of Mount Carmel." As such it came into use as a given name, particularly in Spain in the form CARMEN. 19th C. Var: Carmella. It: Carmela; Carmelina (dim).

Carmen 2 Carmen was first used in Spain as the Spanish form of CARMEL. Its use by Bizet in his famous opera Carmen (1875) popularized the name worldwide. L: carmen "song," "poem," "lay," "oracular response," "prophecy," and "incantation" may well have been in the minds of anyone

with at least a basic knowledge of Latin. Dim: Carmelita, Carmencita. Bearers: Carmen Silvera (1922-2002), the Canadian-born British comic actress; Carmencita, a famous late nineteenth-century dancer, believed to be the first woman ever to be captured on motion picture in the United States.

Carmenta Y A Roman Goddess. The myth surrounding her says that she was originally a mortal prophetess who came to Italy with her son Evander, and prophesized on the Capitoline Hill. Her name is almost certainly derived from the Latin CARMEN, one of the meanings of which was "oracular declaration." Var: Carmentis.

Carmine 2 cc English: carmine "purplish-red" < Late L: carmesinus < Ar: qirmazi "crimson" < girmiz-the name of an insect, from the dried bodies of which a red dye is made. Carmine is also an Italian boy's name, being the masculine form of CARMEL.

Carnation ' Y Carnations-also known as pinks-were hugely popular in Victorian times, and so carried a whole host of meanings in the language of flowers, depending on color; a pink carnation, for instance, signifies, "I'll never forget you," while a yellow one means "you've disappointed me" and is a symbol of rejection. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, Carnations are used in magic in spells of protection and healing. The etymology isn't entirely clear; it may have developed from "coronation," as the flowers were woven into chaplets and garlands. The word "carnation" is also an obsolete term meaning "incarnation," which might also be the source of the name of the flower. A final option is from the identical carnation "skin-colored" < L: carnis "flesh." 19th C.

Carnelian c~ Y Variant of CORNELIAN, which arose due to a mistaken believe that the name derived from L: carnis "flesh" because some varieties are skin-colored. 20th C.

Carol 2 c~ Carol as a girl's name probably arose first as a pet-form of CAROLINE. Quickly, however, it seems to have become identified with the word "carol"-with its strong associations for many of Christmas (and the Winter Solstice for Pagans today), and all the merriment (and magic) therein. English "carol" is from OF: carole "carol," a word of uncertain

origin. Its original meaning was "ringdance," and it may derive ultimately from L: chorus < Gr: khoros, the original meaning of which was "dancing-place" and "dance"-specifically a ritual dance. Another possibility is that carol came from L: corolla "little crown"-perhaps referring to the ring-like nature of the dance. In independent use since the late nineteenth century. Var: Carole, Caryl. Fr: Carole. As a boy's name, Carol is a variant of CHARLES. It was used in the past in Ireland as an Anglicized form of Cathaoir and Cathal, but since Carol is now so established in the ESW as a woman's name, it has fallen out of use (modestly ironic, given the fact that it means "man").

Carola Y A feminine form of CHARLES < Carolus, the standard Latin form of the name. 17th C.

Caroline Y A feminine form of CHARLES, the Anglicized form of It: Carolina < L: Carolus "Charles." It originated in Italy and spread from there to Germany, reaching the ESW in the seventeenth century. In Britain, Carolina was first used in homage to King Charles I and II. Caroline of Ansbach (1683-1737), Queen of King George II, was responsible for the name's popularity from the eighteenth century onwards. Var: CAROLA; Caroleen, Carolyn (mod). Dim: Cal, Callie, Cally, Caro, CAROL, CARRIE, LINA. Dut: Carolien, It, Port, Sp: Carolina, Fr: Caroline, Fin: Karoliina, Ger, Hun, Pol, Scand: Karolina, Cz: Karolina, Dan, Ger, Nor: Karoline. Bearers: Caroline of Brunswick (1768-1821), the estranged wife of King George IV she is sometimes called a Witch as she made a wax doll of George, into which she stuck pins and thorns before melting in a fire; Caroline Kennedy (b. 1957), daughter of JFK; Caroline Myss (b. 1952), the American mystic and author.

Caron Y a Principally a variant spelling of KAREN, Caron is also the name of an obscure Welsh (male) saint, reputedly raised in Ireland, to whom churches in Tregaron and Llangaron are dedicated. Probably W: car "love."

Carravogue 2 Carravogue is an Irish Goddess in the Crone aspect. What little we know of her comes to us through Christian legends, in which she is presented as something of a Celtic version of Eve; she was said to have been turned into a snake for eating forbidden berries before St. Patrick "melted" her with holy water, but the legends also say she will rise again

(indeed, may now well be risen!). It is possible this is a survival of an ancient belief in the Crone being replaced by the Maiden in the spring. Her name is an Anglicized form of the Gaelic Garbhog. As another variant of her name is Garbh Ogh from garbh "wild" and dg "young," it is probable that this is the source of her name. There is an outside possibility, however, that Garbh Ogh represents a later interpretation of Garbhog, and that Garbhog actually derives from cara "friend" (CC: *kar-o- "love") and bog "soft." Var: Gheareagain.

Carrie Y Originally a pet-form of CAROLINE, Carrie has been used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century, sometimes in combinations such as Carrie-Ann. Var: Carri, Carry, CARY, Karrie. Bearers: Carrie Fisher (b. 1956), the American actress; Carrie, the heroine of Stephen King's Carrie (1974).

Carroll f British and Irish surname, often treated as a variant of the male name CAROL. The English Carroll comes from OF: carrel "pillow," used metonymically of someone who made or sold them. The Irish is an Anglicized form of CEARBHALL. 18th C.

Carson c' 2 Irish surname, of uncertain origins. It may be a variant of Curzon-an English surname from OF: courson "little short one" < curt "short" or from Notre-Dame-de Courson in Normandy. Among Protestant Ulstermen, the name is sometimes given in honor Edward Carson (1854-1934) who opposed Home Rule. In America, Christopher "Kit" Carson (1809-68) is largely responsible for the take up of the name. Bearers: (Lulu) Carson McCullers (1917-67), the American writer. 18th C.

Carter ' English surname. ME: cartere "a carter." 17th C.

Carthac c~ Irish form of CARACTACUS. It is probably a Gaelicized form of the Welsh CARADOG, rather than a cognate native development. In the past, it was frequently Anglicized as Carthage. Var: Carthach.

Carthage c~ The famous North African city adopted as a given name in Ireland to render CARTHAC. L: Carthago < Phoenician: Qart-Hadshat < qrt "city" + hds "new."

Cartimandua Y A first-century CE warrior queen of the Brigantes tribe of the North of England. CC: *karti- "driving out" + *mandu- "pony."

Carver cc English surname, either OF: caruier "plowman" or OE: ceorfan "to cut" or "to carve." 18th C.

Carvilia Y A daughter of Morgana le Fay in Bernardo Tasso's sixteenth-century L'Amadigi. Although Tasso probably invented it or took it from the Roman gens, Carvilius is recorded in an inscription in Roman Britain, and is believed to have been Celtic in origin-*karvo- "stag" + dim. suffix *-ilo. Almost certainly coincidental-but rather a nice coincidence.

Carwyn cc Welsh: car "love" + gwyn. Early 20th C.

Cary c~ 2 As a girl's name, Cary is a variant of CARRIE. As a boy's name, Cary is an adoption of the surname, which derives from Cary, Somerset, itself named after the River Cary, a name of uncertain origin. It may be CC: *garwo "rough" and "coarse"-this became garw in Welsh, which is the name of a river in South Wales. 17th C. Var: Carey.

Caryatis Y Epithet of Artemis, deriving from Caryai in Laconia, where there was a famous temple to the Goddess. The ritual dance performed there was of sufficient significance to have a verb of its own in ancient times-karuatizo "to dance the Caryatid dance."The maidens who tended her temple were called caryatids, a word which came to be used for statues of women used as columns in architecture. Caryai itself is connected with Gr: karuon "nut"-specifically, the walnut. Var: Karyatis.

Carys Y Welsh name of late nineteenth-century origin, coined from W: car "love." Its adoption was probably influenced by the similarly pronounced Charis. Already popular in Wales, it was brought to the attention of the world at large when Catherine Zeta Jones and Michael Douglas named their daughter Carys in 2003. Var: Cerys. Bearers: Cerys Matthews (b. 1969), the Welsh singer-songwriter.

Casca cf Roman cognomen, borne by one of the assassins of Caesar. It features in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Oscan: casca "old." 20th C.

Cascorach c~ A harper of the Tuatha De Danann and son of an Irish bard. He is also said to have helped in the defeat of three she-werewolves, which hunted sheep each Samhain, by playing his harp to distract them while a warrior killed them. It Ga: cas "curled" + corr "crane" or corr "point"-i.e. "head"; the word corrach itself means "steep" and "abrupt." Var: Cas Corach, Cascorrach.

Casey ' 2 The Casey who brought the name to public attention was the American folk-hero "Casey" John Luther Jones (1863-1900), who saved the lives of the passengers aboard the "Cannonball" Express. He took his nickname from the place of his birth, Cayce, Kentucky. The surname Casey is, however, found in use from the seventeenth century; the English Casey comes from Kersey Marsh in Essex; the Irish is an Anglicized form of O Cathasaigh < It Ga: cathasach "watchful." Since the mid-twentieth century, Casey has increasingly been used for girls. Var: Casy, Kacey, Kaci, Kasey, Kasy, Kaycee, Kaysey (mod).

Cash c~ English surname. OF: casse "chest to keep wares in." It probably arose metonymically for someone who made such things. The word "cash"-referring to ready moneyderives from the same source; the casse became a "cash" in which money was kept, and then the money itself. 18th C.

Casimir ci French form of Polish Kazimierz < kazic "to destroy" + mir "peace" or Old Slavic *meri "greatness." A very popular name in its native land, it spread by marriage across Europe and has been used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. It, Port, Sp: Casimiro, Ger: Kasimir, Ru: Kazimir, Cz, Slk: Kazimir, Hun: Kazmer.

Caspar e The usual form of JASPER in Holland, Caspar has been used in the ESW since the nineteenth century, especially in America, where its take-up may have been influenced by its use in the Dutch-American community. Var: Casper. Bearers: Caspar Weinberger (1917-2006), the American statesman; Casper, the ghostly hero of the the American television children's cartoon Casper the Friendly Ghost, who first appeared (or should that be "manifested"?) in 1945.

Caspian c' A name invented by C. S. Lewis for Prince Caspian (1951), presumably as a blend of CASPAR and CRISPIAN, or as a direct

borrowing from the Caspian Sea, which takes its name from the Cas-a local tribe. Late 20th C.

Cassair c Irish name-cas "curly(-haired)" + fer "man'.

Cassandra Y Cassandra was one of the many daughters of King Priam of Troy. Apollo fell in love with her and, in the hope that she would yield to his advances, bestowed upon her the gift of prophecy. It didn't work, so out of spite he gave her another "gift"-that of never being believed. After the fall of Troy she was taken back to Mycenae by Agamemnon as his concubine. Needless to say, this didn't go down well with Agamemnon's wife Clytemnestra, who was still furious with him for sacrificing their daughter. Agamemnon learnt the hard way that what Cassandra said always came true-they were both murdered by Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus. The etymology isn't certain. It may be Gr: kainumai "to excel" or "surpass" or-on option which most steer away from-kassa "harlot" or "courtesan" + aner "man." This less attractive meaning certainly fits poor Cassandra's status at the end of her story. It may, however, have pre-Greek or non-Greek origins (she was, after all, a Trojan), and Cassandra may represent only the Hellenized form of her real name, which is now lost to time. 12th C. Var: Kassandra. Dim: Cass, Cassie, SANDRA. Bearers: Cassandra Austen (1773-1845), sister of the author, Jane; Cassandra Eason, the British Witch and Druid who has written many books on Paganism and Witchcraft; Cassie Hughes, a Witch in the British television drama Hex (2004-5).

Cassia 2 Originally, Cassia was the name given to Cinnamomum iners, native to the Middle East. Today, it is principally used of Cinnamomum aromaticum, native to China and the spice produced from it. In America, this is often erroneously called cinnamon. Heb: getsi'ah "kassia" (see Keziah). Its ultimate source is a Semitic root meaning "to strip off/cut off bark," referring to the removal of cassia bark to be used as a spice. Cassia is also the feminine form of CASSIUS. Late 16th C-although many early examples may be misspellings of Keziah.

Cassian c Latin: Cassianus "belonging to CASSIUS." The name of more than one early saint; the fourth-century St. Cassian of Imola, allegedly

martyred under Julian the Apostate, is the patron saint of Mexico City. It, Port, Sp: Cassiano, Fr: Cassien, Ger: Kassian. 19th C.

Cassidy Y G~ Irish surname, from O Caiside "descendant of the curly-haired one." 18th C. Dim: Cassie. Bearers: Cassidy Yates, a character in the American television series Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1993-99).

Cassiopeia 2 In Greek mythology, a queen of Ethiopia. Claiming that she was more beautiful than the Nereids, she incurred the wrath of the Gods, and Poseidon sent a seamonster to ravage her land. It demanded the sacrifice of Cassiopeia's daughter Andromeda, but Perseus rescued the princess and slew the monster. On her death, Cassiopeia was placed among the stars, sitting at her toilette admiring her looks for all eternity. Gr: kassa "harlot" or kassei "cassia" + ops "face." 20th C.

Cassius cT A Roman gens. It was borne by one of the key conspirators in the murder of Julius Caesar. Since the sixteenth century, parents who have hoped that sons would grow up to oppose tyranny have bestowed the name accordingly. Bearers: Cassius Clay (b. 1942), the American boxer who changed his name to Muhammad Ali in 1964.

Cassivellaunus 011 A king of the Catuvellauni tribe of Roman Britain, famous for resisting Rome. CC: *kassi "bronze" + *wellauno- "chief." Casivellaunus survives in the Welsh CASWALLON.

Castalia ? A nymph loved by Apollo, turned by him into a spring on Mount Parnassus near Delphi. This spring became associated with the Muses. Its origins are so ancient that the etymology of the word is unclear, but it is probably an archaic form of Gr: katharos "pure." Late 17th C.

Castina 2 Latin: castus "pure"-epithet of Venus. Given her reputation, some might find this ironic-but this is perhaps an indication of what the ancient attitude to sexuality was, and how very different it is to the self-imposed guilt-ridden "sin"-obsessed prudery of most of the Christianized West today. 17th C.

Castor,' One of the "Heavenly Twins"-the other being Pollux (also known as Polydeuces)-who together form the constellation and sign of the zodiac

Gemini. They were the sons of Zeus by Leda, whom Zeus visited in the guise of a swan. Gr: kastor "beaver," but it is more likely the name is pre-Greek or derives from an archaic form of katharos "pure." Castor-beans are the fruit of the castor-oil plant, and are used for protection. Late 16th C.

Caswallon a Welsh form of CASIVELLAUNUS, whom Welsh myth made a son of Beli Mawr. 19th C.

Cat e 2 In the past, Cat was mostly used as a nickname for someone with cat-like characteristics, be it comfortloving, very comfortably off, prickly, spiteful-or downright sadistic. In the latter twentieth century, it has increasingly been used as a pet-form of KATHERINE. As well as all the characteristics already stated, cats are very independent and very clever. They are associated with Witches more than any other animal-especially black cats-an association which may go back to ancient times, when the cat was regarded as sacred by the Egyptians and associated with Goddesses such as Isis. Cats feature enormously in folklore and are often associated with a person's fortune, or otherwise. Bearers: Cat Stevens-the stage name of singer-songwriter, peace-activist, and philanthropist Steven Georgiou (b. 1948); Eric "Cat" Chant, a powerful young enchanter in Diana Wynne Jones's Chrestomanci series (1977-2006).

Catanance 2 A mythical Roman plant-said to be a type of vetch-which was used in love philters. Gr: katanagke "means of constraint" and "spell" < katanagkazo "to overpower by force."

Catha Y Etruscan sun Goddess. Var: Cautha and Kavtha.

Cathair cE Old Irish: cath "battle" + fer "man"-i.e. "a warrior." Ga: Cathoair.

Cathal e Old Irish name, cognate with CADWAL or CADWALLON. Sometimes Anglicized as Carol in the past. Var: Cahal.

Cathan e Old Irish name-cath "battle" + dim. suffix -dn. Now sometimes Anglicized as KANE-the surname which derives from it.

Cathbad c3' A High Druid of Ulster, who features prominently in Irish myth. The first element of his name is straightforward-cath "battle." The second is more difficult. It maybe cognate with the Scots Gaelic bad "wind," or from CC: *bato- "death," which became bath in Old Irish.

Cathubodua 2 Celtic Goddess. CC: *katu- "battle" + *boduo- "crow." She is probably one and the same with Bodua, who passed into Irish myth as BADHBH.

Catiline o' English form of Latin Catilina, a Roman cognomen, principally borne by the conspirator Lucius Sergius Catilina (108-62 BCE), whose attempted coup was put down by Cicero. L: catus "male-cat" or catus "sharp" to the hearing" and "shrill," as well as sharp in an intellectual sense, "clear-sighted" and "wise."

Cato c' Y Roman cognomen, specifically of the gens Porcia. L: catus "sharp" in an intellectual sense, "clear-sighted" and "wise." 18th C. Since the twentieth century, Cato has also sometimes been used as a pet-form of KATHERINE, particularly in Holland. Bearers: Marcus Porcius Cato Uticensis, known as Cato the Younger (95-46 BCE), a Roman statesman known for his integrity, who fought with Pompey against Julius Caesar.

Catriona Y Scots Gaelic form of Katherine. It is often used in the accent-less form Catriona, or the semi-Anglicized forms Catrina and Katrina-all used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Dim: Trina.

Catullus c~ Roman cognomen, most associated with the first-century BCE poet Gaius Valerius Catullus (c. 85-55 BCE). L: catulus "young animal," specifically "puppy."

Cay y ' Vietnamese: cay "tree" and "plant."

Cayenne 2 d A type of pungent ground chilli powder. Tupi: kyynha. Since its arrival from South America in the eighteenth century, it has been incorporated in a number of folk-remedies, as it is a very antiseptic, anti-spasmodic and stimulating spice, which radiates heat. 20th C.

Ceallach c~ Irish Gaelic name, formally derived from Gaelic: ceall "church," but now thought to be from 01: cenn "head" + luach "bright" or "strife." Anglicized as KELLY. Var: Ceallagh.

Cearbhall cc' Irish Gaelic name of uncertain meaning. In Scots Gaelic, cearbhall means "carnage" and "massacre."

Cecil c~ Usual English form of Caecilius, a Roman gens. L: caecus "blind" + dim. suffix -ilus. A third-century saint ensured its use in the Middle Ages. In Wales, it was much confused with SEISYLLT. From one or the other came the English surname Cecil, and it is this which is responsible for Cecil's later use, often with the aristocratic Cecil family in mind. Thomas Cecil (1542-1623) was one of Queen Elizabeth I's most trusted advisors and was made Lord Burleigh and later Earl of Shrewsbury. Bearers: Cecil Rhodes (1853- 1902), the British colonialist and imperialist, who even had a country named after him (Rhodesia-now Zambia and Zimbabwe); Cecil Day Lewis (1904-72), the Irish poet; Cecil Beaton (1904-80), the photographer.

Cecilia Y The more usual form of Latin Caecilia, the feminine form CAECILIUS (see Cecil). The allegedly third-century saint of the name is the patron saint of music. It was very popular in the Middle Ages, normally used in the vernacular forms CICELY, Cecily and Sisley. The Latinate Cecilia was revived in the eighteenth century, and popularized by Mme D'Arblay's novel Cecilia (1782). Var: Cecelya, Cecilie, Cecille, Cycalye, Cycley, Siscella, Sycily (hist). Ger: Cacilie; Silke (dim), Fr: Cecile. Bearers: Cecilia Beaux (1855-1942), the American artist; "Cecilia" (1970), a song by Simon and Garfunkel.

Cedar cc Y A broad, spreading evergreen tree. The true Cedar is also known as the Cedar of Lebanon and was used by the Romans to build their ships. It remains the symbol of Lebanon to this day. In North America, Cedar wood features considerably in Native myth and legend, as well as in medicine and ritual. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, its smoke is purifying and promotes psychic ability, and hanging it up in a house is said to protect against lightning strikes. As a long-lived, lofty evergreen, it is also associated with immortality. The Egyptians used its oil as a preservative and

in the embalming process. Gr: kedros-"cedar."The ultimate origin is unknown. Late 19th C.

Cedreatis 2 Latin: cedrus "cedar." Epithet of Artemis.

Cedric ' Cedric first appeared in Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* (1819). Traditionally it is believed Scott mistook it for the Old English *Cerdic*; however he may have taken the name from *CEDRYCH*. Where *Cerdic* came from is uncertain; it may be Celtic anyway, perhaps derived from *CARADOG*. Cedric was used by Frances Hodgson Burnett in *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886). Bearers: Cedric Diggory, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Cedrych cc Welsh: ced "bounty" + drych "pattern." Var: Ceidrych. Late 20th C.

Ceidio A warrior of the Old Welsh poem the *Gododdin*. W: kiw "fog" + diauc "unswift"-possibly a reference to the Mists of Annwfn.

Ceindrych Y One of the daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog. W: Cain "beautiful" + drych "appearance." Late 19th C.

Ceinfron Y A daughter of the sixth-century Welsh prince Llywarch Hen. W: Cain "beautiful" + bron "breast."

Ceinwen 2 A daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog. W: Cain "beautiful" + gwyn. Late 19th C.

Ceirios Y Welsh: ceirios "cherries" < L: cerasus "cherry-tree." The cherry was almost certainly introduced into Britain in the Roman period. Early 20th C.

Celadon c~ An Egyptian companion of Phineus in Greek mythology. The French form *Celadon* featured in Honore d'Urfe's *L'Astree* (1607-27). This character gave his name to "celadon" the color-a shade of pale green. Gr: kelados- "echo," "clang," and "clamor"-a poetic word used particularly of rushing water. Early 20th C.

Celaeno 2 The name of one of the Pleiades, as well as the leader of the Harpies which attacked the Trojan refugees led by Aeneas on their way to Latium. Gr: kelainos "black," "dark," and "murky"+ fem. suffix -o. 19th C.

Celandine Y The greater and lesser celandine are both used in folk-medicine. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, the principal use of lesser celandine is clearly stated by one of its old names-pilewort. The great celandine was mostly used in remedies to treat eye complaints. Celandines flower in April and May and are known for only opening their petals in sunshine. The greater celandines are said to flower only once the swallows have returned, and to stop flowering after they have gone again, hence their alternative name-swallow-wort. This connection is ancient; the name derives from its Greek name khelidonion < khelidon "swallow." Magically, celandines are used for protection and also to help a person break away from anything which is hindering them. It can also promote happiness. Late 19th C.

Celeste 2 Anglicized form of Celeste, a French name which was originally used for boys but has been given to girls for at least a century. L: Celesta < caelestis "celestial," "heavenly." 19th C. Celestial is also in use. The Mary Celeste is a ship famous for being found adrift in 1872 with its whole crew vanished.

Celestina Y Elaboration of CELESTE, used since at least the nineteenth century, and probably inspired by CELESTINE. Celestina (1791) was a novel by English writer Charlotte Smith.

Celestine c~ 2 English form of Latin Celestinus < caelestis "heavenly." It was chosen as a papal name by five popes and one anti-pope-all presumably because of its meaning. Since the nineteenth century, it has been increasingly treated as a girl's name.

Celia Y Anglicized form of Latin CAELIA-although its use by Renaissance writers may have been directly from L: caelum "sky." Shakespeare used it in As You Like It, and it was popular with seventeenth-century poets. "To Celia" (1616) is a well-known poem by Ben Jonson. 17th C. Fr: Celie.

Celsus c' A Roman cognomen. L: celsus "lofty," "high," and "eminent." The name was borne by a number of early saints, leading to its use in the

Middle Ages in some Catholic countries. It, Port, Sp: Celso. Bearers: Aulus Cornelius Celsus (c. 25 BCE-c. 50 CE) was a Pagan writer on medicine.

Celyn a' 2 Welsh: celyn "holly." Late 19th C.

Cennydd cc Old Welsh name, cognate with KENNETH. It was borne by a sixth-century saint, supposedly the son of Gildas the Monk. Var: Cenydd. Revived late 19th C.

Centaury Y c~ An English wildflower with medicinal properties. A country name for it in Worcestershire is centreof-the-sun-a corruption of its name. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, the smoke of centaury is said to drive away snakes, and in the past it was valued generally for its ability to banish "wykked sperytis." Gr: kentaureion < kentauros "centaur," so named because, according to Greek mythology, the centaur Chiron healed himself with the plant when a poisoned arrow wounded him. 20th C.

Cephas e Greek word used to render Aramaic: kepa "rock"-the word used, according to the Bible, by Jesus of his disciple Peter. Most people treat it as just the Hellenized form of the Aramaic, but it was actually a genuine Greek name-a contracted form of Kephalos "head." 17th C.

Cepheus e The name of two figures of Greek mythology; a king of Tegea who sailed with the Argonauts, and a mythical king of Ethiopia-husband of Cassiopeia and father of Andromeda. The etymology is unknown. The constellation Cepheus is named after the Ethiopian king. 18th C.

Cerah Y Malay: cerah "bright," "sunny," "brilliant," and "serene."

Cerauneus c~ Epithet of Zeus. Gr: kerauneios "wielding the thunder" < keraunos "thunderbolt."

Cerddinen Y Welsh: cerddinen "rowan."

Ceren Y Turkish name-ceren "gazelle" and "antelope."

Ceres 2 The Roman Goddess of agriculture, usually regarded as the Roman equivalent of Demeter. PIE: *ker "to grow"-the same root as CRESCENT.

From Ceres also comes English "cereal." 18th C.

Ceri 2 c~ In much of the ESW, Ceri is used as a variant of KERRY. However, it is a name in its own right in Wales. As a girl's name, it originated as a short form of CERIDWEN; as a boy's, it derives from car "love." Bearers: Ceri Geraldus Richards (1903-77), a Welsh artist.

Ceridwen 2 Welsh Goddess, sometimes identified with the Irish Brigid. She is a Goddess of poetry and inspiration, the Queen who brewed the Awen. She is also associated with the moon, though this stems largely from the interpretation of her name to mean "crooked woman." However, the second element may be simply W: gwyn, and there are a number of possibilities for the first. Popular are cerdd "skill," "poetry," and "music," and cariad "love." Less likely linguistically, but still an intriguing possibility is CC: *k-ritu- "magical transformation." But it is worth remembering that in the myth, Ceridwen is firmly associated with Bala Lake in North Wales. On its shores there is a sacred spring, noted for magical powers, dedicated to St. Cywair-also known as Gwyr. She is said to have been the mother of Llywarch Hen, a legendary bard just like Ceridwen's son Taliesin. Are Cywair and Ceridwen really one and the same, originating as a genius loci? In Modern Welsh, cywair means "order," "key," and "tune," while gwyr means "sloping"-and "crooked." 19th C. Dim: CERI. Var: Cyrridven, Kerritwen, Kyrriduen (hist); Cerridwen, Keridwen, Kerridwen (mod).

Cerise Y A bright, glowing pink color. Fr: cerise "cherry." Late 19th C.

Cerne c~ The English towns Nether Cerne, Up Cerne, and Cerne Abbas-famous for its chalk giant-are all said to take their names from the River Cerne, which is interpreted as coming from CC: *karno- "pile of stones." "There seems a reluctance to state the obvious: that the name bears a strong resemblance to CERNUNNOS, who could also have given his name to Cirencester, known as Corinium or Circonium in Roman times. 19th C.

Cernunnos cc Celtic God. CC: *korno- "horn"-hence the usual translation of his name as "the horned one." He is a God of animals, Nature, and the wild, and is generally identified as the Horned God portrayed in Celtic art across Europe. Cernunnos has also been linked with Odin, and many believe he is also Herne. 20th C.

Cesaire c~ Often mistaken as the French form of CAESAR, Cesaire actually derives from Latin Caesarius, which developed from Caesar, essentially meaning "of Caesar." It is the name of a sixth-century saint-a bishop of Arles-hence the name's use in France.

Chablis y A variety of white wine, deriving from the town of Chablis in France. This seems to derive from Fr: chablis, a word used of trees blown over by the wind, and left to decay. 20th C.

Chad e A name of obscure origins; it occurs in Old English as Ceadda and Ceada, but it may ultimately be Celtic, possibly from CC: *katu- "battle." Seventh-century St. Chad was Archbishop of York, and Chad has been used from time to time over the centuries, enough to produce a surname in the Middle Ages. The name became familiar worldwide through the 1940s Chads (the British equivalent of "Kilroy was here" doodles), with their "Wot no -?" cartoons. In Romani, chad means "arse/ass."

Chaffinch Y c~ A small European bird, with a beautiful deep rosy-pink chest. It is quite a shy bird, but very widespread-it is the second most common bird in the British Isles. OE: ceaf "hulled wheat" (a reference to its favorite food) + fine "finch." 20th C.

Chaim c Hebrew: hayyim "life." Jewish name used for centuries. Var: Chayyim.

Chakana Y a The Chakana is an ancient, geometrical Inca symbol often called the Inca Cross. It represents the three worlds of Inca belief: the Lower World-an Underworld-the Middle World of living creatures, and the Upper World of the Gods. These have as totem animals the snake, the puma, and the condor, respectively. The "arms" represent the compass points-eight in all-strikingly similar to the eight-spokes of the Wheel of the Year. It is strongly associated with the constellation the Southern Cross. Quechua: chakana "bridge" and "portal." 20th C.

Chakra c~ Y The Chakras have been made familiar in the West from Hindu and Buddhist Mystic practices. They are energy points located in various places across the body, through which energy is channeled. It is widely believed that in order for the body, mind, and spirit to function optimally,

the chakras all need to be functioning properly and to be in balance. San:
cakra "wheel" or "turning." 20th C.

Chalcedony Y c~ A semi-precious stone, much used for intaglios in signet rings since ancient times. L: chalcedonius < Gr: khalkedon "chalcedony." Further etymology is very, very uncertain. Chalcedony is a stone that is said to radiate positivity, excellent at promoting feelings of comradeship and shared purpose and sending all negativity packing. Thus is it is considered a stone of friendship. It is also associated with good fortune, and is one of the birthstones for both May and June. Early 20th C. Var: Calcedon (hist).

Chalice Y The word "chalice" is now associated by most people with the vessel used by Christians during communion, or is treated as a poetic word for the already poetic "goblet." It is used by some Pagans as an alternative to "goblet" to refer to a goblet-like vessel placed on altars or used in rituals to symbolize the Goddess. L: calyx < Gr: kulix "cup." A Greek kulix (often Latinized as kylix) was quite different to the classic image of a chalice, being more reminiscent of a champagne coupe, with a very shallow, but very broad cup on a long stem. The interior was a favorite with Greek vase-painters. The surname Chalice derives from Eschalles in France. L: scalae "flight of steps" and "ladder." 18th C.

Chamomile ? c~ There are two types of chamomile-the Roman (Chamaemelum or Anthemis nobile) and German (Matricaria recutita). Both are ruled by the Sun and Water, and both have many properties. German Chamomile is known as the "mother of the stomach" and is particularly good at soothing digestive problems, relieving stress, soothing headaches, and inducing sleep. Chamomile tea can also be used to keep hair fair and to soothe insect bites, sore eyes, and itchy skin. Roman Chamomile was a favorite strewing herb in the Middle Ages because of its strong smell of apples. Known as "the plant's physician," because a chamomile planted next to a sickly plant will almost always revive it. In magic, it is used for love-spells and purification. It is also good for tummy upsets, insomnia, stress, and painful periods. L: Chamomilla < Gr: khamaimelon < khamai "earth" + melon "apple"-referring to its scent. Var: Camomile. 20th C.

Champagne 2 d The name of a wine-making region of France, specializing in luxury sparkling white wine. Fr: Champagne < L: Campania < campus "plain," "field"-used specifically of land that is level and fertile. In the Roman period, the Campania was the region south of Latium in which both Naples and Pompeii were situated. Champagne is also a surname, deriving from the same source. 19th C.

Chan y c~ Khmer name-can "moon." Var: Chann.

Chance c~ Y English surname. ME: cheaunce "fortune" and "luck"-perhaps used of a gambler or someone who took a lot of risks. Its general take-up as a name is almost certainly down to its resemblance to chance-which, of course, shares the same etymology-and perhaps also because of its resemblance to Chauncey. 18th C.

Chandan c~ A paste made from sandalwood, used in Hindu religious ceremonies. San: candana "sandalwood."

Chandler cc English surname. OF: chandelier "candlemaker." 17th C. Bearers: Chandler Bing, a character in the American sitcom Friends (1994-2004).

Chandra c' 2 Indian name. San: candra "moon." Var: Chander.

Chandrakant c Indian name. San: candra "moon" + kanta "beloved." Fem: Chandrakanta.

Chanel 2 An adoption of the name of French designer and perfumier Coco Chanel (1883-1971). The surname derives from OF: chanel "drain" or "ditch"-somewhat less "glamorous" than the image of Coco and her house of haute couture. Var: Chanelle, Shanel, Shanelle (mod). Mid-20th C.

Change ? Chinese Goddess of the moon, said to be a legendary beauty who flew to the moon and stayed there, remaining the lady of the moon forever. Mand: chang "lady in the moon" + e "beautiful" and "good."

Changming Y Chinese name. Mand: chang "ever" + ming "bright."

Channary Y Khmer name-can "moon" + nierii "girl" and "unmarried woman." Similar is Chanmony, combining can with minii "precious stone" and "diamond."

Chant c~ English surname. OF: chant "singing" and "song," used metonymically for a singer, specifically a precentor in a monastery or a cathedral. Related are the surnames Canter and Chanter, the latter from OF: canteor, which also meant "enchanter" and "magician" as well as "singer." 18th C.

Chantal y A French name. Old Provençal: cantal "stone." It was the surname of the French St. Jeanne-Françoise de Chantal (1572-1641), who co-founded an order of nuns, and the name was taken up in her honor. It is popularly associated with the Fr: chant "song." Used generally in the ESW in the twentieth century. Var: Chantale, Chantalle, Chantelle, Shantelle.

Chantilly 2 Chantilly is a town in France close to Paris. It first became known in the eighteenth century for a softpaste porcelain made in the town, and in the nineteenth for its fine lace. Its Medieval Latin name was Chantileium, thought to derive from the Gallo-Romanic personal name Cantilius. CC: *kan(s)to- "white" + dim. suffix *-ilo. 19th C.

Chao cc Chinese name. Mand: chao "surpassing."

Chapman c~ English surname. OE: ceapman "merchant" or "trader." 17th C.

Chara Y The traditional name of the star Beta Canum Venaticorum, in the constellation Canes Venatici (the Hunting Dogs). Gr: khara "joy."

Chardonnay ? A variety of wine, taken from the town in France. Its Medieval Latin name was Cardonnacum, which is usually derived from L: carduus "thistle," but the name has a distinctly Celtic ring, and it is more likely that it represents a Celtic name-personal or topological. It may even be the name of a deity; it contains the Classic deity suffix -ono-, seen in the names of so many Celtic Gods and Goddesses. A likely Celtic source is *karti- "to drive out." Chardonnay first appeared as a given name in the

1970s, but it was popularized by a character in the British television series *Footballer's Wives* (2002-6).

Charidotes e Epithet of Hermes. Gr: kharidotes "giver of joy."

Charis Y Greek: kharis "grace," "loveliness," "gratitude," and "kindness.."The plural kharites is the Greek name for the Graces. 16th C.

Charisma 2 Greek: kharisma "blessing." The word was first used in English in a theological context, with the sense of a "God-given" talent, quality, or grace. It passed into more general use only towards the end of the nineteenth century, with its modern sense of having the ability to inspire admiration and enthusiasm developing in the early twentieth century. Mid-20th C.

Charissa ? Latinized form of CHARIS, first used by Edmund Spenser in *The Faerie Queene*. Var: Carissa.

Charity Y Old French: charite < L: caritas < Gr: CHARIS. 16th C. Dim: CHERRY. Charity is also another name for the herb Jacob's ladder. Bearers: Charity Hope Valentine, the central character in *Sweet Charity* (1966).

Charlemagne c~ The name by which the Frankish King and Holy Roman Emperor Charles the Great (c. 742-814) is usually known, deriving from CHARLES + L: magnus "great." 18th C.

Charlene Y Charlene first seems to have appeared in Quebec in the latter half of the nineteenth century, arising as a variant of CHARLOTTE. By the end of the nineteenth century, it was starting to be used in English-speaking North America, and it spread to the rest of the ESW in the early twentieth. Its use in the latter half of the twentieth century was promoted by its appearance in popular television: the American actress Charlene Tilton (b. 1958), who played Lucy Ewing in the soap opera *Dallas* (1978-91), and the character Charlene Mitchell in Australian soap opera *Neighbours* (1985-), played by Kylie Minogue. Dim: Char, Charley, Charlie, Lennie, Lenny. Var: Charline, Sharlene.

Charles (' Now regarded as the English and French form of the German KARL, there was the Old English cognate CARL, which remained the more usual form of the name in the Middle Ages, with the French Charles only gradually superseding it. A prominent early bearer was Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk (c. 1484-1585), the influential brother-in-law of Henry VIII. It wasn't until the seventeenth century, however, that the name became established, largely because of Charles Stuart (1600-49), Prince of Wales from 1616 and king from 1625. The English Civil War (1642-49) polarized loyalties in Britain. It ended with Charles's famous beheading, after which the name became a favorite among royalists-and later among the Jacobites. Dim: CHARLIE; Chas, Chaz (UK); CHUCK (US); Chae, Chay (Sc). It: Carlo, Port, Sp: Carlos, Fin: Kaarle, Dut: Karel, Pol: Karol, Hun: Karoly, W: Siarl. Bearers: King Charles II (1630-85); Charles Stuart a.k.a. "The Young Pretender" (1720-88); Charles Darwin (1809-82); Charles Dickens (1812-70); Charles, Prince of Wales (b. 1949). Charles Macaulay is a central character in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (1992).

Charlesworth cc English surname, from Charlesworth in Derbyshire. OE: ceafł "jaw" (here used in the sense of a ravine) + worth "enclosure." There is a possibility that ceafł was used as a personal name, in which case it may mean "Ceafł's enclosure." 18th C.

Charley 2 e Now generally treated as a pet-form of CHARLOTTE or CHARLENE, Charley used to be used as a variant of CHARLIE. It is found as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century, when it was usually-but not exclusively-used for boys.

Charlie Y c~ Usual pet-form of CHARLES, used since at least the eighteenth century. Charles Stuart, "the Young Pretender," was popularly known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie." Other examples of Charlie include Charlie Chaplin (1889- 1977) and jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker (1920-55), both of whose first names were really Charles. Another Charlie is the endearing Charlie Brown of Charles M. Shultz's *Peanuts* cartoon strip (1950-2000) and spin offs. Charlie is also found as a girl's name, both independently and as a short form of CHARLOTTE and CHARLENE.

Charlotte ? Feminine form of CHARLES. Like Caroline, the roots lie in Italy, Charlotte in It: Carlotta. Carlotta of Savoy (1443-1483) was the wife

of King Louis XI of France, where her name swiftly became Frenchified as Charlotte. It spread to England in the early seventeenth century. In 1626-the year after King Charles I came to the throne-the 7th Earl of Derby married a French aristocrat of the name, and her influence at court probably played a large part in its subsequent adoption. However, it wasn't until the marriage in 1761 of King George III to Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz that the name became common. Var: CHARLENE; Charlize (mod). Dim: CHARLEY, CHARLIE, LOTTA, Lottie, Lotty. Bearers: Charlotte Smith (1749-1806), Charlotte Bronte (1816-55), Charlotte Mary Yonge (1823-1901)-all English novelists; Lady Charlotte Guest (1812-95), translator of *The Mabinogion*.

Charlton cc English surname, from a number of places of the name. OE: ceorl"man" and "peasant" + tun. 17th C. Dim: CHARLIE. Bearers: Charlton Heston (1924-2008), the American actor, whose real name was John Charles Carter.

Charm 2 ' English "charm" comes from L: carmen "song," "poem," "lay," "oracular response," "prophecy," and "incantation." It was first used in English specifically of the chanting of a verse possessing magic power to cast a spell, as well as anything created by such a spell, such as a talisman. Later it came to be used more generally of anything which possessed an ability to fascinate or inspire feelings of admiration. 20th C.

Charmaine Y Charmaine was coined in the late nineteenth century. Exactly what was originally intended is unknown. It may be a blend of CHARLOTTE with GERMAINE, an elaboration of the English word "charming," a reworking of CHARMIAN-or a bit of all three. It was made more widely known when it featured in a song of 1927 entitled "Charmaine." This was very popular and re-released several times, making a number of appearances in the 1950s in particular. Var: Sharmaine.

Charmian Y A name used by Shakespeare in *Antony and Cleopatra* for Cleopatra's loyal slave. Shakespeare got the name from Plutarch, who recorded it as Charmion < Gr: kharma "joy." 19th C.

Charna Y Yiddish name. Pol: czarnyRu: cherny "black." Var: Cherna. Dim: Charnke.

Chase c~ Y English surname. OF: chaceur "hunter." 18th C. Its use in more recent times probably owes much to its resemblance to the English "chase," with its undertones of hunting on the one hand and speed and excitement on the other.

Chastity Y The evidence for the use of Chastity before the twentieth century is thin; it is clear that some modern transcribers have sometimes misread CHARITY as Chastity and thus there is always the possibility that the same thing has happened in reverse. However, if the name was used by the Puritans, it was extremely rarely, and Chastity's use dates, by and large, to the latter half of the twentieth century, after American singer Cher gave the name to her daughter in 1969. It should be noted that although the name is now heavily loaded with Christian notions regarding sex and sin, the pre-Christian L: castitas, from which the English developed, carried more the sense of moral purity. Var: Chasity (mod).

Chatral e Tibetan name-bya bral "free from worldly action" < bya "duties" + bral "free" and "freedom."

Chatri e Thai name-chatri "brave," "valiant," and "masculine."

Chaucer cc English surname. OF: chaucier-a name for a maker of chausses, a type of breeches or pantaloons. Use since the eighteenth century has been in honor of Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1343-1400), author of the Canterbury Tales.

Chauncey c~ English surname, deriving from Chance in Brittany. Its Breton equivalent is Kantie. CC: *kantom "hundred" or *kan(s)to-"white" + dim. suffix -eg. 17th C. Var: Chauncy, Chancey.

Chaya 2 In Hindu mythology, Chaya is the name of the hand-maid of Surya. San: chaya "shade," "shadow," "reflection," and "play of light." Chaya is also used in Israel as a feminine of CHAIM.

Chaytan cc Lakota: chetdp "hawk."

Che c~ Che is most familiar in the West as the nickname of Ernesto "Che" Guevara (1928-67), the Communist revolutionary. In Argentinian Spanish,

the is a colloquial term carrying the meaning of "pal," "mate," "dude," etc. Che is also a Malaysian boy's name, roughly translating as "Mr." Most use in the ESW has been in the latter twentieth century, in Guevara's honor.

Cheiro a' Y Greek: kheir "hand." Cheiro was the pseudonym of Irish palmist and astrologer William Warner (1866-1936).

Chelidon Y Greek: khelidon "swallow."

Chelle 2 Generally considered a short form of MICHELLE, "chelle" is also an archaic English word meaning "goblet" and "chalice." OE: cylle "leather bag," "flagon," and "vessel" < L. culleus "leather bag for liquids."

Chelsea Y A borough of London, England. OE: cealc "chall" + hyth "landing place." By the mid-twentieth century, Chelsea had become a fashionable place to live, and this may have influenced its take up as a given name in the 1950s. In the 1960s it became famous as the home of the "Swinging Sixties," and this may also have fuelled its use as a name. Joni Mitchell's "Chelsea Morning" (1969) and the appearance of an actress called Chelsea Brown in the American comedy show Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In (1968-73) promoted its take-up in America, while in Britain, its use may also owe something to the famous British football club. Var: Chelsey, Chelsie. Bearers: Chelsea Clinton (b. 1980), daughter of former American President Bill Clinton.

Chemosh e Moabite God mentioned in the Bible.

Cheops c~ Egyptian pharaoh, famous for building the largest of the pyramids at Giza. Cheops is the Greek form of Khufu, short form of Khnum-Khufu < KHNUM + xf "to watch," here with the sense "to protect" + w(i) "me."

Chephren c~ Greek form of Egyptian Khafra, a pharaoh and builder of one of the pyramids of Giza. Egyptian: sxaj "to appear" + f "he" + RA-i.e. "he appears like Ra."

Cher y French: cher "dear" and "beloved"-and technically masculine; the correct feminine is Chere. It is not used as a given name in France, and its

use in the ESW in the early twentieth century was originally as a pet-form of one of the names beginning with Cher-; in the case of the American singer, this was CHERILYN.

Cherida Y Variant of CHERYL or CHERRY, or elaboration of CHER with the suffix -ida, influenced by names such as Cressida and Phyllida. Early 20th C.

Cherie Y French: cherie, feminine of cheri "darling"-in informal French, often used to mean girlfriend or boyfriend. Its take-up in the twentieth century may have been influenced by Cheri (1920), a novel by Colette. Bearers: Cherie Blair (b. 1954), the wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Var: Cherie, Sheri, Sheree.

Cherilyn Y Elaboration of CHERYL. At the time it developed, there was a growing fashion for names ending in -lyn. Var: Cherilynn, Cherilynnne, Sherilyn-although the latter could be considered an elaboration of Sheri (see Cherie). Not that it makes a great deal of difference. Bearers: Cherilyn "Cher" Sarkasian LaPierre (b. 1946).

Cherish Y The English verb "cherish" means "to hold dear" and "to love tenderly," although it can carry the sense of "to pamper." MF: cheriss < cherir "to hold dear" < L: Carus "dear," "beloved," and "esteemed." Early 20th C.

Cherokee ' 2 Native American tribe, belonging to the Iroquoian language group. The Cherokee call themselves the Tsalagi or Aniyvwiyai, and it is unclear where the word "Cherokee" itself comes from. The earliest-known form of it is Tchalaquei, which was recorded by the Spanish. It may plausibly derive from Choctaw: cha-la-kee "those who live in the mountains." Its use as a boy's name in America has probably been strongly influenced by the nineteenth-century outlaw Cherokee Bill (1876-96), whose real name was Crawford Goldsby. Its use as a girl's name has almost certainly been influenced by the Cherokee Rose (*Rosa laevigata*). Numerous cities, towns, and counties are called Cherokee in several American states-with even one in Australia-and more than one song has been recorded with "Cherokee" as the title. 20th C.

Cherry Y Cherry was originally used as a pet-form of CHARITY, but has been used as an independent name also since at least the nineteenth century. The association with "cherry" was probably in the mind of those who used it as a pet name-and certainly by those using it as a name in its own right. The cherry is one of the most widespread species, famous for its beautiful white or pink blossom in the spring as well as for its edible fruit. Since the eighteenth century, hundreds of exotic varieties have been introduced across the globe from China and Japan, where the tree is a national symbol. Norman-French: cherise < Lat: cerasus "cherry-tree" < Gr: kerasos. In Antiquity, it was believed that the tree acquired its name from the city of Cerasus in Pontus (Asia Minor). Ruled by Venus and Water, the cherry is used in magic to attract love.

Chert c~ Y A type of stone composed of silica. The word has been known from the seventeenth century, but its etymology is very uncertain. 20th C.

Cherub 2 In modern use, the word "cherub" is understood to mean a type of angel, usually a chubby, winged child, or even simply a winged child's head. However, earlier uses include "knowledge" and "celestial virtue," and as Cherub it was used as an alternative name for the angel Uriel. Gr: kheroub "cherub" < Gr: kerub "angel" (also "cabbage"), possibly from-or cognate with-Akkadian karabu "blessing" or karbu "blessed." 20th C. Var: Cherubina, Cherubine.

Chervil ? c~ A small herb, once much employed for its culinary properties though neglected in recent years. Ruled by Jupiter, Chervil has been used in herbalism as a cleansing tonic for the liver and kidneys. OE: crerfille < L: ch&rephyllum < Gr: khairephullon < khairo "to rejoice" + phullon "leaf"

Cherwell cc Y One of the rivers which flows through the university city of Oxford, England. The second element is OE: wella "stream" and "spring." The first is less certain; it may be the reconstructed OE: *cearre "winding." Alternatively, the Cher- may represent a pre-Saxon name-possibly the same source as the Cher- of Cherhill in Wiltshire (see Cheryl).

Cheryl ? Cheryl's roots go back further than often thought. Although the form Cheryl itself dates to the early twentieth century, there are examples in America of Cheril, Cherill, and Cherille-now regarded as variants of

Cheryl-in the nineteenth century. However, by and large most examples of names which would now be considered forms of Cheryl-those above and others such as Cherel, Cherelle, Cherrel, Sharell, Sherell, and Sherill-were actually borne by men, a clue that they originated as a surname, in this case, the English Cherill. This comes from Cherhill in Wiltshire, a little village which lies very close to Avebury in an ancient sacred landscape (although Cherhill White Horse itself dates to the late eighteenth century). The origins of this name appear to be Celtic; the second element is ial cognate with W: ial "fertile upland." The first is probably the River Calne, which gives its name to the nearby Calne. Most etymologists seem to throw their hands up at this point and blurt out "unknown origin, probably Celtic." It seems plausible, however, that it has the same origin as CERNE-i.e. CERNUNNOS. No one can dispute how important and sacred this area was to Pagans in ancient times, and it is not at all unlikely that vestiges remain in some toponyms. The general adoption of Cherill as a female name, and preference for the spelling Cheryl, is probably down to the influence of Beryl, which had a modest vogue in America in the 1910s. Var: Sheryl.

Chesney g English surname, derived from one of the places called Quesnay in France. OF: chesnai "oak-grove." Var: Chasney, Chastenay, Chastney, Chene, Cheney, Cheyne, Cheyney. 17th C. Dim: Ches.

Chester c' English surname, derived from the ancient town of Chester in England. OE: cestre < L: castrum "fort." Chester was the home of one of the three legions of the Roman army stationed in Britannia, the XX Valeria Victrix. In Roman times, the city was called Deva, but the Latin word castrum passed into Anglo-Saxon as the name of a Roman fort, and a large number of British towns with Roman origins contain it in one form or another, such as Lancaster, Leicester, and Winchester. Chester, however, was the cestre. 16th C. Dim: Chet.

Cheyenne 2 ' A Native American tribe, whose name was adopted as a given name in the latter half of the twentieth century. It is normally used for girls, but occasionally found as a boy's name. Cheyenne belongs to the Algonquian language group. Folk-etymology says the name means "a bit like the [people of] an alien speech," but it may be from Lakota: Sahiyena "the little Sahiya"-who the Sahiya were is not known, though it was

presumably another Algonquian tribe. Cheyenne is also the name of a city in Wyoming, a river, a mountain, three counties in three separate states, two reservations, a sentimental song of 1906 (also known as "Shy Ann"), and a Western television series (1955-63). Var: Chayenne.

Chi 2 Nigerian name. Igbo: chi "(a) God"-it tends to be a short form of names containing it, such as Chidike (chi + dike "hero") and Chioma (chi + oma "good"). Another is Chichi. Chi is also a Vietnamese girl's name with the literal meaning "limb," but which is also used to mean "tree branch." In Mandarin, Chi is the name of a hornless dragon, while chi means "mountain elf," and chi "flame" and "blaze."

Chick c~ Originally a term of endearment, an adoption of chick "a baby chicken." The same source accounts for the surname Chick. 20th C.

Chicory e Y A bitter herb, with beautiful sky-blue flowers, also eaten as part of a salad and as a vegetable. Chicory root is often ground and used as a naturally caffeine-free coffee substitute. Ruled by the Sun and Air, chicory can be used magically to attract help and remove obstacles, and it is used in herbal medicine for conditions such as liver complaints and gout. L: chicorium < Gr: kikhora "chicory." Late 20th C.

Chime Y c English "chime" < L: cymbalum "cymbal." "Ibis was the original meaning of chime; by the fifteenth century, it was used of the apparatus used to hang bells to cause them to "chime," and by the sixteenth century, a set of bells and the sound itself. Chime is also a Tibetan name-`chi med "deathless," "immortal," and "immortality" < chi "death" + med "does not exist," "not," and "transcending."

Chimon cc Greek: kheimon "winter." It is the name of an island in Connecticut. In Japan, a chimon, was a ninja who specialized in geographical knowledge, botany, entomology, geology, and zoology, demonstrating a clear understanding

in Medieval Japan of Francis Bacon's well-known saying "knowledge is power" long before he said it. Jp: chi "earth," "land," and "ground" + mon "gate" and "door."

China y c? Adoption of the name of the country as a given name. It comes from Persian: Cin < Mand: Qin-the name of a dynasty which ruled China in the third century BCE. The meaning is uncertain; qin meaning "ash-tree" shares the same Chinese character as China, but this is probably coincidental. China also gave its name to a fine porcelain, which is responsible for some examples of China as a given name-such as a child registered as Dresden China Fretwell in Yorkshire, England, in 1880. Var: Chyna, Chynna.

Chingis (' Mongolian name-the modern transliteration of Genghis, Mongolia's most famous son, Genghis Khan (c. 1162-1227). It was taken as a name by Genghis as an adult, as part of his title as khan, but its source is unclear. It may possibly be from the Old Turkic tejiz "sea," implying that his rule was as extensive as the sea (hence the meaning often given- "universal").

Chintz 2 The word "chintz" derives from San: chitra "variegated." Originally, it was used of painted or stained calicoes from India, but is now used of cotton printed with floral patterns and generally used in soft furnishings.

Chione ? In Greek mythology, Chione was a stunningly beautiful maiden who caught the eye of both Apollo and Hermes. As a result of their attentions, she gave birth to two boys after a day's gestation-one the son of Apollo, the other of Hermes.'His rather went to Chione's head; she foolishly boasted she was more beautiful than Artemis-who promptly shot her. Stricken with grief, her father Daedalion threw himself off Mount Parnassus, and was turned by Apollo into a hawk.'The name was also borne by a daughter of Boreas, the North Wind. Gr: khidn "snow"-thus it is sometimes translated as "snow maiden." 20th C.

Chiromancy Y a' Greek: kheir "hand" + manteia "divination." Chiromancy is the art of palmistry.

Chitty c 2 English surname, deriving from Chitty in Kent. CC: *kayto- "wood(land)." 18th C.

Chloe Y Greek: khloe "first shoot"-i.e. of a plant in spring. It was also used of the early verdure of trees in the spring, blades of grass, and the foliage of trees. An epithet of Demeter, it was used as a girl's name in ancient times, which led to its brief appearance in the New Testament. It was also used by Alexander Pope in his satires to refer to Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk (1689-1767), the mistress of King George II. 16th C. Dim: Chlo, Clo. Var: Cloe, Khloe (mod).

Chloris Y The name of the only one of the daughters of Niche to survive the massacre wreaked upon the latter's children by Apollo and Artemis. In some versions, her name was originally Meliboea, and she was renamed Chloris because of the color she turned during the murder of her siblings. Gr: khloros "pale green"-also used to mean "fresh" and "young." It was a favorite of seventeenth-century poets. 19th C.

Choy Japanese name-chow "butterfly." In the Harry Potter series, Cho Chang is a Witch of Chinese descent-her name is probably a variant of a Mandarin word usually written chou in Pinyin, such as chou "recover"; chou "friends," or chou "grieved" and "pained." The Japanese name is sometimes combined with ko "child"-Choko. Var: Chou.

Chocolate Y a Chocolate derives from Nahuatl: chocolatl-the name given to a foodstuff made partly from cocoa seeds and partly from the seeds of the pochatl tree. It was originally applied to what we now call "hot chocolate," a drink made from the seeds of the chocolate-tree-called cacauatl < Nahuatl cacaua (see Cocoa). Despite the similarity, it is not believed that chocolatl and cacauatl are related. By the end of the seventeenth century, it was being made into pastes and cakes. Although mostly thought of as a confectionary, the chocolate tree has medicinal uses: cocoa powder lowers high blood pressure, while cocoa butter can be used to soothe chapped skin and minor burns. Late 20th C.

Chogan e Narragansett: chogan "blackbird."

Chohawni y Romani: chohawni "Witch." Var: Chovahani.

Chola Y a Alabama and Chickasaw: chola "fox."

Choon Y c~ Romani: choon "moon" < CHANDRA.

Choviar g Y Romani: choviar "Witch."

Chris c3' Y Short form of names beginning with Chris-, in particular CHRISTOPHER and CHRISTINA. Since the nineteenth century, Chris and its diminutive Chrissie (which is usually only feminine) have been used as names in their own right. Var: Kris, Chrissy, Krissie, Krissy.

Christ c~ Usual English form of Latin Christus < Greek Khristos "anointed" < khrio "to rub with scented unguents." It was used by Christian writers to translate the Hebrew messiah as "anointed one." The basic meaning of the adjective khristos is simply "to be rubbed on," "used as an ointment/ salve," and "anointing." While the name Christ itself carries a considerable amount of baggage-perhaps too much for most-this way of interpreting the name also allows any Pagan to feel entirely justified in using any of the Christnames, should they choose. Also, there's no reason why Pagans shouldn't reclaim the word khristos, which was Pagan long before it was appropriated by Christianity. Although most Christians consider the name Christ to be too sacred to use as a given name, why should non-Christians regard it as more sacred than the name of any other deity? Despite the fact most other books on names choose to ignore it, Christ has been used as a genuine given name since at least the eighteenth century.

Christa Y In English, Christa is mostly a short form of CHRISTABEL. In German, it is a pet-form of CHRISTIANE. Also used in its own right since the late nineteenth century.

Christabel Y A name which seems to have been invented in the Middle Ages by romance writers. CHRIST + -bella. It may possibly have been inspired by Cristobal, the Spanish form of CHRISTOPHER. 16th C. Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "Christabel" (1816) did much to make the name better known in the nineteenth century; Coleridge's own granddaughter, born in 1843, was called Christabel Rose. Dim: CHRIS, Chrissie, Chrissy, Chrissie, Christie, CHRISTA and BEL. Bearers: Christabel Pankhurst (1880-1958), the suffragette; Christabel LaMotte is a poet in AS. Byatt's Possession (1990).

Christella Y Elaborated variant of CRYSTAL, though some regard it as a variant of CHRISTINA-or a combination of CHRIST and ELLA. Nevertheless, its roots lie with Crystal. Var: Chrystalla. Late 19th C.

Christian cc Y The meaning of the boy's name Christian is not quite as transparent as it looks. It derives from L: Christianus "belonging to CHRIST" when in the Middle Ages the usual English word for "a Christian" was Christen. Admittedly, this is splitting hairs. 12th C. Ger: Carsten, Karsten, Dan, Sw: Kristen, Dan, Fin: Kristian, Cz: Kristian, Hun: Krisztian.'The girl's name arose as a vernacular form of CHRISTIANA.

Christiana ? Feminine of CHRISTIAN. Introduced in the twelfth century, it rapidly became very popular, usually appearing in the vernacular form Christian, which was far more common as a girl's name than a boy's until the eighteenth century, when Christiana itself was revived. Var: Kristyan, Kirstyan (hist). Dim: CHRIS, Chrissie, Chrissy, CHRISTIE, and Christy (mod).

Christiane 2 Modern German form of CHRISTIANA. It was a form recorded in Britain in medieval times and has sometimes been used since the late nineteenth century, though pronounced with two syllables, rather than the German three. Var: Christianne (mod). Dim: CHRISTA (Ger).

Christie 2 c~ Pet-form of any of the names beginning Christ-. Var: Christy.

Christina 2 Christina has been used since the thirteenth century, but was much rarer in the Middle Ages than CHRISTIANA. An early-possibly the first-example in England is the sister of Edgar Atheling, who was proclaimed King of England in 1066, but never crowned. Both Edgar and his sister were born in Hungary in the mid-eleventh century, where their father was in exile. Their mother's identity has long been a matter of debate, but currently one of the most popular theories is that she was the daughter of Yaroslav I the Wise of Kiev and his Swedish wife. This would make sense, as Christina-one of the most popular Swedish names-was already in use there at the time. In the nineteenth century, Christina largely supplanted Christiana-in the same way Georgina usurped Georgiana. In the twentieth century, this process continued, with the even simpler Fr: Christine coming into use towards the end of the nineteenth century. Dim:

CHRIS, Chrissie, Chrissy, CHRISTIE and Christy. Var: Christene, Chrystine, Cristine, Crystine, Krystyna. It: Cristina, Jr Ga: Cristiona, Scand: Kerstin, Nor, Den: KIRSTEN, Kristine, Scots: Kirstin; Kirsty, Kirstie (dim), Sw: Kristina, Hun: Krisztina. Bearers: Christine Daae, heroine of Gaston Leroux's novel *Phantom of the Opera* (1911).

Christmas a y Since the thirteenth century, children born at particular feasts were sometimes named after them, and Christmas is no exception. Christmas has been personified more than once in myth and fiction-representing the season rather more than the Christian feast. The roots of Father Christmas lie firmly with Odin and the Holly King. Nor do the Ghosts of Christmas in Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* (1843) hail much from the Christian stable.

Christopher c~ St. Christopher is one of the most blatantly made-up saints of Christianity-even the Catholic Church admits it, and has dropped him from its calendar. Despite this, the famous patron saint of travelers remains almost as popular today as he was in the Middle Ages, and Christians of all denominations often wear a "St. Christopher" pendant as a talisman. L: Christopherus < Gr: Khristophoros "bearing Christ." 13th C. Var: Kester (hist). Dim: KIT, CHRIS, Christy. Ger: Christoph, Fr: Christophe, Sc Ga: Criostal, Jr Ga: Criostoir, Scots: CRYSTAL, Sp: Cristobal, It: Cristoforo, Port: Cristovao, Bul: Hristo, Lat: Kristaps, Hun: Kristof, Dan/Sw: Kristoffer, Pol: Krysztof, Fin: Risto. Bearers: Christopher Columbus (c. 1451-1506); Christopher Marlowe (1564-93), the English playwright; Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723), the English architect; Christopher Lee (b. 1922), the English actor; Christopher Penczak (b. 1973), an American author of books on Witchcraft and Wicca; Christopher Chant, a powerful enchanter in Diana Wynne-Jones's *Chrestomanci* series (1977-2006); Christopher "Chris" Halliwell, a "whitelighter" in the American television drama *Charmed* (1998-2006).

Chronos o' Greek personification of time. Gr: khronos "time." It tends to be confused with CRONOS. Late 20th C. Var: Chronus.

Chrysalis ? e The pupa stage of many insects including butterflies and moths and some beetles such as the cockchafer. As such, it is a symbol of transformation. It is also symbolic of protection-protecting as it does the

caterpillar/butterfly metamorphosizing within-and inert potential. Gr: khrysallis "chrysalis" < khrysos "gold." Var: Chrysallis. Late 20th C.

Chrysanthea 2 Greek: khrysos "gold" + anthos "flower." Late nineteenth-century coinage, presumably as a more "feminine" form of CHRYSANTHEMUM.

Chrysanthemum 9 Originally, Chrysanthemum was the botanical name for the corn marigold. Gr: khrysos "gold" + anthem on "flower." Chrysanthemums stand for geniality and friendship, traditionally given to someone for being a good friend. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, in magic, chrysanthemums are used for protection. Late 19th C.

Chrysogon 2 e Greek: khrysos "gold" + gonos "born," khrysogonos was an adjective used of the Persians, because the Greeks believed they descended from Perseus, who was conceived when Zeus impregnated his mother in a shower of gold. St. Chrysogonos is an alleged fourth-century male saint. However, the use of Chrysogon as a given name has been almost entirely female. 17th C. Var: Grisegond, Grisigon (hist).

Chrysolite 2 Originally, chrysolite was a name applied somewhat haphazardly to a number of green stones including topaz and tourmaline. Later it came to refer specifically to precious olivine. Gr: khrysos "gold" + lithos "stone." Var: Chrisalet, Crisolite, Crysolyt (hist). 20th C.

Chrystal a 2 As a girl's name, Chrystal is a variant of CRYSTAL. As a boy's, it is an Anglicized form of Criostal, the Scots Gaelic form of CHRISTOPHER.

Chthonia Y Epithet of the Goddesses Demeter, Hecate, and Nyx. Gr: khthonios "in/under the Earth" and "of/from the Earth."

Chthonius a Epithet of Dionysus. Gr: khthonios "in/under the Earth" and "of/from the Earth."

Chuck a In Britain, "chuck" is a term of endearment, used from the late sixteenth century. It is closely associated with a dialectic word for a chicken, and probably derives from it, although the pet-name is attested

earlier. In America, Chuck has been used as a familiar form of CHARLES since the nineteenth century, passing into use as an independent name before that century was out. Bearers: Chuck Berry (b. 1926) whose birth name is Charles-the American musician.

Ciabhan a Old Irish name borne by a character in Irish mythology beloved by the fairy queen Cliodhna. It Ga: ciabh "lock of hair" + dim. suffix -an. Anglicized as Keevan.

Cian e Traditional Irish name. Jr Ga: cian "ancient." Anglicized as KEAN. In modern Irish, cian also means "sadness." Borne by a son-in-law of the famous Irish king Brian Born in the eleventh century. There is an identical Welsh name, borne by a fifth-/sixth-century poet. Var: Kian.

Cianait Y Modern Irish Gaelic name. CIAN + fem. dim. suffix -nait. Var: Ciannait.

Ciara Meaning "shadowy" and "dark' in Irish Gaelic, Ciar was the love-child of Queen Medb by Fergus mac Roich. He was believed to be the ancestor of the men who founded County Kerry.'There is also an early saint of the name.

Ciara Y Old Irish name-ciar "black," "shadowy," and "dark.'"There appear to have been two figures who bore the name in Ireland's early history; a seventh-century abbess and saint and a sixth-century one as well, although they may in reality be one and the same. It is also perfectly possible that she represents an Irish deity. Her name is also spelled Ceara, Cera, Ciar, Cier, Cyra, and Kiara.'The modern Anglicized form is KEIRA.

Ciaran a Old Irish name-ciar "black," "shadowy," and "dark' + dim. suffix -an. Anglicized as KIERAN.

Cicely Y English form of CECILIA, used since the Middle Ages. By the late sixteenth century, it had become associated with the plant Myrrhis odorata, as sweet cicely. Sweet cicely has been valued since ancient times for its culinary and medicinal properties. In the past it was used to improve the spirits, particularly of elderly people. Ruled by Jupiter, it is used in herbal medicine to treat digestive complaints, coughs, and anemia. Var:

Cecily. Dim: Cissie, Cissy, Cis, Ciss, Sissy. Sissy is used as a mild derogatory term for someone who is timid or cowardly. Bearers: Cecily Cardew, a character in Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895).

Cicero a Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BCE) was a famous first-century BCE Roman orator and politician who was Consul of Rome in 63 BCE, during which he managed to prevent a coup. L: cicer "chick-pea." 16th C.

Cidaria Y Epithet of Demeter. Gr: kidaris of uncertain meaning. It was possibly a dance or a type of headdress.

Cihan c Y Turkish-cihan "world" and "universe."

Cik 2 Malaysian name. Malay: cik "miss."

Cillian a Name of more than one Irish saint; the Anglicized form of Ceallachan-CEALLACH + dim. suffix -an. Var: Killian. 20th C.

Kimber a Meaning "a Cimbrian." The Cimbrians were a tribe who invaded Italy in the early first century BCE. Their name may be cognate with both Cumbria and Cymru-the Welsh name for Wales, from CC: *kom-brogos "compatriot."

Cinder y a English cinder derives from L: cinis "ashes." In modern usage, it refers to the ash of a fire after it is completely out. 19th C.

Cinderella 2 The name of the fairy-tale heroine. Cinderella-esque tales date back to Antiquity, but the Cinderella tale itself is from the seventeenth century, in particular Charles Perrault's version of 1697. The name was coined from CINDER + -ella, based on Perrault's Cendrillon, created from Fr: cendre "cinder." Perrault himself was inspired by an Italian tale, in which the heroine was called Cenerentola. Used from the eighteenth century-mostly by the Romani.

Cindy Y Originally, Cindy was a pet-form of LUCINDA-occasionally of CYNTHIA-but it is now also used independently. Var: Cindi, Cindie, Cyndi, Sindy. Sindy was the name of a Barbie-style doll popular in Britain in the 1970s and '80s.

Cinnabar c~ Y The ore from which mercury is extracted. It is a lustrous deep red, sometimes called "red mercury." It is also the source of the pigment vermilion, and is an old name for dragon's blood (see Dracaena). The cinnabar moth is one of the most beautiful of all the moths, which acquired its name from its patches of rich cinnabar color. OF: cinabre < L: cinnabaris < Gr: kinnabari; its ultimate roots lie somewhere in Asia. Late 20th C.

Cinnamon c? y The spice. In America, "cinnamon" is often used of the spice generally called "cassia" in Britain, where "cinnamon" is reserved for "true cinnamon." Cinnamon is a popular culinary spice, used for toast, Danish apple pastries, mulled wine, and curries. It is also an important medicinal and magical spice. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, true cinnamon is particularly good for treating colds and flu. It is also good for aiding digestion. In magic, it is used in all manner of spells from healing to enhancing psychic powers, protection and love. Gr: kinnamomon "cinnamon" < Heb: ginnamon. Early 20th C. Bearers: Cinnamon Carter, a character in the original Mission: Impossible television series (1966-73).

Cinta Y Indonesian name-cinta "love." Cinta also means "love" in Malay.

Cinxia Y Epithet of the Goddess Juno. L: cingo "to encircle" and "to girdle." In ancient times, it was believed she had acquired the epithet because as Goddess of marriage, she "looses the bride's girdle"-L: cinctus "girdle." Late 20th C.

Circaea Y Latin: Circaeus "of Circe," "belonging to Circe" and "enchanted" < CIRCE.

Circe 2 Circe is one of the world's most famous Witches. A daughter of the Sun and Perse-herself a daughter of Oceanus-she lives on her enchanted private island Aeaea. Her brother was Aeetes, King of Colchis, making her the aunt of another famous ancient sorceress-Medea. Circe is best known for turning most of Odysseus's crew into swine. He managed to thwart her, with the help of Hermes, who gave him the magic herb molt' Circe fell in love with Odysseus, and he dallied with her for a year before finally setting off again. In one version of the myth, Circe bore a son after he left Telegonus, who accidentally killed his father when he went to Ithaca.

Telegonus, Penelope, and Telemachus took Odysseus's body to Aeaea for burial. There, Circe made Penelope and Telemachus immortal. She married Telemachus, and Penelope married Telegonus, and they all lived happily ever after. Gr: kirkod "to encircle"-no doubt with enchantments.

Cissaea Y Epithet of Athene. Gr: kissoo "to wreath with ivy."

Cissonius C\ A Celtic God worshipped in France and Germany, associated by the Romans with Mercury.

Citlalli y Mexican name. Nahuatl: citlalli "star." 20th C.

Citrine 2 c~ The word "citrine" originally meant "citruscolored," deriving from CITRUS. In the eighteenth century, it was applied to a yellow variety of quartz, sometimes called the "false topaz." Citrine is regarded as an excellent stone for purification and protection. It radiates the energy of the sun and banishes negativity. Late 20th C.

Citron c~ Y The name of a tree and its fruit, known since ancient times. Unlike its cousins the lemon, orange, and lime, the fruit is dry and little used for eating or culinary purposes, although in Iran a jam is made from the rind. Its principal use in the past was in healing. Governed by the Sun and Air, the fruit is said to increase psychic powers if eaten. Late 20th C.

Citrus e Y Citrus is now used as the botanical name for the various citrus fruits. In ancient times, however, it was used specifically of the CITRON. The ultimate source of the name is probably CEDAR.

Clancy c~ Irish surname. Anglicized form of Mac Fhlannchaidh "son of the red warrior." 18th C.

Clara Y The feminine of Latin clarus "clear" and "famous." Clarus was not uncommon in Roman times as a surname, and was an obvious name for a saint or two, though the most influential was the medieval St. CLARE. Clara was mostly found only in Latin documents until the nineteenth century, when it was re-embraced. Bearers: Clara Peeters (1594-1657), the Flemish artist; Clara Schumann (1819-96), the German composer.

Clare Y English form of CLARA. The cult of the twelfth-/ thirteenth-century Italian St. Clare of Assisi-founder of the Poor Clares-spread quickly across Europe, and Clare is found in Britain from the late thirteenth century. Var: Claire, Clair (mod). It: Chiara, Fr: Claire, Ger, It, Port, Rom, Sp: Clara. Ger, Pol, Ru, Scand: Klara, Cz, Hun: Klara. Bearers: Clare Leighton (1898-1989), the Anglo-American artist; Claire Trevor (1910-2000), the American actress.

Clarence cc' The Dukedom of Clarence was created in 1362 for Prince Lionel, son of King Edward III. He had married the heiress of the hugely powerful medieval family of de Clare. After that, Clarence became a royal title, usually held by younger royal sons, the last being Prince Albert Victor, the eldest son of King Edward VII, while the latter was still Prince of Wales. Prince Albert died of influenza in 1892, aged 28. King William IV, who reigned from 1830 to 1837, had been Duke of Clarence from 1789 until he became king, and the adoption of Clarence as a given name in the early nineteenth century was principally in his honor.

Claret y A diminutive of the French clair "clear," the word claret was originally used of a type of wine which was light red in color. Now it is generally applied to wines from Bordeaux. Since the seventeenth century, it has also been used as a color. Late 19th C.

Claretta 2 Claretta originated as an Italian pet-form of Clara-the most famous example being Clara "Claretta" Petacci (1912-45), the mistress of Mussolini. Var: Clarette.

Claribel Y Claribel first appears in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and was almost certainly invented by Shakespeare. He was probably inspired by other names popular in literature at the time such as Rosabel and Christabel, and based Claribel on L: clarus "clear." 17th C. Var: Clarabella.

Clarice ? Originating as a French variant of CLARA in the twelfth century, Clarice was introduced to Britain at the very end of that century. It was moderately popular in the Middle Ages, and was revived in the latter half of the nineteenth century. In the eighteenth century, Clarissa came into use, inspired by Samuel Richardson's novel *Clarissa* (1748). The English pronunciation of Clarice is traditionally "KLAris," while the American is

"klo-REES." Var: Clarisse, Claricia (hist); Claris. Dim: Clarrie or Clarry. Bearers: Clarice Cliff (1899-1972), the British ceramic artist; Clarissa Spenlow, a character in Dickens's *David Copperfield* (1850); Clarissa Dalloway, central character of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* (1925); Clarice Starling, heroine of Thomas Harris's *The Silence of the Lambs* (1981).

Clarimond Y Latin: clarus "clear" + OG: munda "protection." It arrived in England in the thirteenth century, in forms such as Claramunda and Cleremunda, but it featured more in medieval literature-usually in forms such as Claremonde and Fr: Esclairmonde. It did not survive the Middle Ages, but was revived in the latter 19th C. Var: Clarimonde.

Clarinda 2 Clarinda was first used by Spenser in *The Faerie Queene*, and was a popular literary name of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. 17th C.

Clarion c' ? A shrill-sounding trumpet used in medieval times as a signal. OF: claron < L: clarus "clear." The word is probably best known through the famous poem "The Call" written by Thomas Osbert Mordaunt during the Seven Year War of 1756-63: "Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fife! / Throughout the sensual world proclaim, / One crowded hour of glorious life / Is worth an age without a name." 19th C.

Clarity ? Latin: claritas "clearness," clarity was originally used in English to mean "brightness," "luster," "splendor," and "brilliancy." It came to mean "clearness" in relation to all manner of things-from the sky to intellect, judgement to vision-from the seventeenth century. 19th C.

Clark cc' English surname. OE: clerc "a clerk" < Late L: clericus "clergyman" < Gr: klerikos "belonging to the ecclesiastical order"-originally, it meant "of an inheritance." 16th C. Var: Clarke. Bearers: (William) Clark Gable (1901-60), the American actor; Clark Kent, a.k.a. Superman.

Clary Y cc A herb, also known as clary sage, which possesses important medicinal properties. Late L: sclarea of unknown etymology. Early modern apothecaries came up with their own interpretation that clary meant "clear-

eye" and used it for salves for the eyes. Ruled by the Moon, it is valued in modern herbal medicine for its efficacy in treating menstrual problems. Clary sage essential oil is also used to help induce a post-date labor naturally; with a drop or two added to a carrier massage oil or to a bath. Sometimes used as a variant of Clarrie (see Clara, Clarissa, and Clarence). 19th C.

Claude c~ The usual English and French form of CLAUDIUS. St. Claude was a seventh-century French bishop, which has ensured that Claude has long been a popular name in France. 16th C. Var: Claud. Fem: Claudette, Claudine. It: Claudio. Bearers: Claude Monet (1840-1926), the French artist; Claude Debussy (1862-1918), the French composer; Claude Rains (1889-1967), the Anglo-American actor; Claude Levi-Strauss (1908-2009), the French anthropologist; Claude Rollo, an alchemist in Victor Hugo's *Notre Dame de Paris* (1831).

Claudia 2 Feminine form of CLAUDIUS. Borne by numerous celebrated women in Antiquity. 17th C. Bearers: Claudia Schiffer (b. 1970), the German supermodel; Claudia, a child-vampire in Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles* (1976-2003)

Claudius e The gens Claudia was an ancient, Patrician Roman family, whose members included four out of five of the first Roman Emperors-the Julio-Claudian dynasty. The best-known was the Emperor Claudius (10 BCE-54 CE). His full name was originally Tiberius Claudius Nero Germanicus; after he was made Emperor, he became Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus-"this, that, and the other,"-as Robert Graves put it in the opening to his novel *I, Claudius* (1934). Deified after his death, his temple in Colchester was one of the principal targets of Boudicca during her revolt of 60 or 61 CE. A bronze head of Claudius found in the River Alde was quite possibly a cult statue taken from Claudius's temple and thrown into the river, perhaps as an offering to the old Celtic deities as a symbolic sacrifice during the actual rebellion. L: claudus "limping." Late 16th C.

Claver cc Mostly used by Roman Catholics, Claver was adopted as a given name in the last century in honor of St. Pere Claver (1581-1654), a Jesuit priest who worked with slaves in America. Cat: clauer "key-maker" (in

modern Catalan, it means "key-ring"). In Scotland and the North of England, "claver" is a dialect word meaning "idle garrulous talk." It is also an obsolete form of CLOVER.

Claycc' By and large, the use of Clay has been down to the surname. OE: cl&g "clay"-used of someone who dwelt near a clay pit. It has also been used as a short form of CLAYTON. Clay is a hugely important natural material, used to make ceramics since the Mesolithic. As well as being used to

make practical vessels for storage, eating, and drinking, it has also been long employed as a means of artistic expression, and for the making of objects of spiritual and ritual significance. It features in numerous myths; in quite a few, a deity first fashioned a human from clay and breathed life into it. 16th C.

Clayton c3' English surname, from numerous English places of the name. OE: cl&g "clay" + tun Dim: CLAY. 17th C.

Cledwyn cc' Old Welsh name-caled "hard" or cledd "sword" + gwyn.'The name of one of the sons of Brychan Brycheiniog-tellingly, it is also borne by a Welsh river, hinting that Cledwyn may have been at the very least a genius loci. 19th C.

Cleer cc An obscure Cornish saint. Probably L: clarus "clear" and "famous."

Clematis Y The climbing plant, renowned for its lovely flowers. Gr: klematis-the name of an unidentified climbing plant < klema "vine-branch." Late 19th C.

Clemency Y English "clemency" means "mercy," "mildness," and "gentleness" < Latin Clementia "clemency" and "mercy," etc. One of the Puritan names. 17th C.

Clement c~ St. Clement was regarded as a disciple of St. Paul, having received a brief mention in one of Paul's letters in the New Testament.'This Clement is also identified with the late first-century pope of the name. St.

Clement was very popular in the Middle Ages; there are more than forty medieval churches dedicated to him in the British Isles. His name in Latin was Clemens-a common name in Roman times-from L: clemens "mild" and "merciful. ""The English word "clement"-largely these days used with regard to the weather-has exactly the same origin. Clement was a common name throughout the medieval period, but fell out of use after the Reformation. It was revived in the nineteenth century. Dim: Clem, Clemmie, Clemmy. Fr: Clement, It, Sp: Clemente, Hun: Kelemen, Get, Pol: Klemens and Ru, Bul: Kliment. Bearers: Clement Attlee (1883-1967), the British Prime Minister at the end of World War II.

Clementina, Clementine Y Clementina was the name attributed to an early saint-one of the legendary eleven thousand virgins who accompanied St. Ursula. All were allegedly beheaded by the Huns near Cologne in Germany. They are the feminine equivalent of the 'Theban Legionessentially accounting for hundreds and hundreds of usable "saints" all in one go (great for the relic trade). Clementina the feminine form of CLEMENT-occurs from the Middle Ages. In the nineteenth century, Clementine also came into use, taken from the French Clementine. The widespread fame of the American folk-song "Oh My Darling, Clementine" (1884) with its tale of a drowned girl and refrain, "Oh, my darling, oh my darling,/Oh my darling Clementine!/ Thou are lost and gone forever,/Dreadful sorry, Clementine," affected its use detrimentally from the late nineteenth century until quite recently. Dim: Clem, Clemmie, Clemmy. It, Port, Sp: Clementina, Pol: Klementyna.

Cleopatra ? This name will be synonymous forever with Egypt's last queen, Cleopatra (69-30 BCE). Cleopatra, however, wasn't an uncommon name in the Greek world. It was also borne by two minor figures of mythology. A favorite of the Ptolemaic Dynasty, it was borne by countless female members; Cleopatra was just the last of a long line. Gr: kleos "fame" and "glory" + patra "fatherland." 16th C. Dim: Cleo.

Clerebold e Old German name-klar < L: clarus "clear" and "famous" + bald "bold." It was introduced by the Normans as Clarebald and Clarembald, but didn't survive the Middle Ages.

Clerius c Epithet of Apollo. Gr: kleros "a lot" (in the sense of casting lots).

Clether c~ A Cornish saint, probably one and the same with the Welsh Cleder-a son of Brychan Brycheiniog-but whether he was once a real human or a deity is less easy to say. It may derive from W: caled "hard" or cledd "sword" + gwyr "man," or be a variant of CLYDRI.

Cleveland cc English surname, deriving from the region which straddles North-East Yorkshire and South Durham. OE: clif "cliff" + land "land." 17th C.

Cliff c? Cliff is generally regarded as a short form of CLIFFORD. However, there is also a surname Cliff-selfexplanatory. Cliffs are symbolic of many things, such as an obstacle, a difficult challenge, boundaries, human limitations in the face of the far greater power and majesty of Nature. 17th C. Var: Cliffe, Clyffe.

Clifford c~ The Clifford family was a powerful dynasty in the Middle Ages and might have become a royal dynasty, had the two sons of Henry Clifford, 2nd Earl of Cumberland, and his wife Lady Eleanor Brandon-niece of King Henry VIII-not died in infancy. Most people whose surname is Clifford are unrelated to this family; there are a number of places called Clifford across England-OE: clif "cliff"+ ford "ford." 16th C. Dim: CLIFF.

Clifton cc English surname, deriving from a number of places of the name. OE: clif "cliff"+ tun. 17th C.

Clint c' Clint's use as a given name is mostly due to Clint Eastwood (b. 1930), whose full name is CLINTON, and generally Clint is treated as a short form of this name.'There is a separate surname Clint, however, deriving from Clint in Yorkshire. ON: klint "rocky, steep bank."

Clinton c' English surname, which comes from Glinton in Cambridgeshire. OE: glind "fence" + tun. The Clintons have been a prominent family in the United States since the eighteenth century, although former American President Bill Clinton (b. 1946) is not actually related to them. 17th C. Dim: CLINT.

Clio Y One of the Muses-History is usually designated as her realm. Gr: kleo "to celebrate." Bearers: Clio Martin, a Witch in Cate Tiernan's Balefire

series (2005-6).

Clíodhna Y The Irish Goddess of beauty, and a queen of the Banshees. It is sometimes Anglicized as Cleena. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that the Goddess Clíodhna and the Goddess who gave her name to the River CLODAGH are one and the same. 20th C. Var: Clidna, Cliona.

Clitus c~ English form of Greek Kleitos "famous," borne by a number of prominent figures in Greek myth and history, including two generals of Alexander the Great. Var: Cleitos, Claitus.

Clive G~ English surname. OE: clif "cliff." It came into use in the nineteenth century in honor of Robert Clive (1725- 74), often known as "Clive of India." At first it was used only by those with connections to India, but after the name was used by Thackeray in *The Newcomes* (1853-55), it came into more general use. Bearers: Clive Owen (b. 1964), the British actor.

Cloacina y A Roman Goddess, later identified with Venus. L: cloaca "drain" < cluo "to purge," "to free from what is superfluous," and "to purify." The Cloaca Maxima was the name of the sewage system in the city of Rome (an incredible feat of Roman engineering) dating to 600 BCE, and Cloacina was the name they gave to the Goddess they perceived as watching over it. She is also believed to be a protectress of sex in marriage-which is perhaps how she acquired the identification with Venus.

Clodagh Y An Irish river, adopted as a given name in Ireland in the late nineteenth century. Probably CC: *kluto- "fame." An early bearer was Lady Clodagh Anson (1879- 1957), a daughter of the Marquis of Waterford. Clodagh may well be cognate with the River CLYDE, perhaps also the CLYDACH, and is possibly one and the same as the Gaulish Goddess Clutodia. She may also be related to CLIODHNA.

Clodia ? Feminine form of CLODIUS. It was borne by a first-century BCE woman regarded as notorious in Roman times. She was famous for her extra-marital affairs-most notably with the poet Catullus. He wrote some of his most famous poems about her, using the pseudonym Lesbia for her. 19th C.

Clodius c~ A variant of CLAUDIUS adopted by Publius Claudius Pulcher, brother of Clodia, in 59 BCE. He wanted to be elected as a tribune of the people-but it was an office which could only be held by a Plebeian. He was a Patricianso he got himself adopted into a Plebeian family to gain Plebeian status, after which he changed his name to distinguish his new Plebeian branch of the family from the old. Clodius was a wild-living young man who also gained notoriety for gate-crashing the extremely solemn festival of the Bona Dea in female attire, which only Roman matrons of impeccable reputation could attend. He was eventually killed in a street brawl.

Cloelia Y Feminine form of Cloelius, the name of a Roman gens, possibly from L: clueo "to be famed/esteemed." A celebrated Roman maiden of the early days of Rome bore the name. One of a number of hostages given to the Etruscan king Lars Porsenna, she escaped her captors and led a number of the other girls to safety by swimming across the River Tiber. Lars Porsenna admired this and promised that she and the others would be unharmed if they returned; but he wouldn't complete the peace treaty with Rome without them. Dutifully, Cloelia did as requested. Peace duly ensued. 19th C. It: Clelia.

Clorinda Y A name used by Torquato Tasso in his epic poem Jerusalem Delivered (1581), perhaps coined by Tasso from CHLORIS. It was later used by Thomas Killigrew in his play Cicilia and Clorinda (c. 1650-51). 18th C.

Clotilda Y Latin form of Old German Chlotichilda- hlut "loud" + hildi "battle." It was borne by the queen of Clovis, King of the Franks. 17th C. Fr: Clotilde, Clothilde.

Cloud Y c~ Clouds are symbolic of dreams, aspirations, and imagination. The word itself, however, is etymologically the same as "clod"; both derive from OE: clud "mass of stone," "rock," and "hill." It came to mean "cloud" only around 1300, with the original sense of "mass in the sky." The surname Cloud was originally used of someone who lived next to an outcrop of rock or a hill. 17th C. "Cloud" itself is only detectably used since the twentieth century, when it sometimes occurs in combinations such as Storm Cloud. Var: Cloude.

Clough c~ The name of a river; Clough is also an English surname. OE: cloh "ravine" or "steep-sided valley." Bearers: Sir (Bertram) Clough Williams-Ellis (1883-1978), the Welsh architect, best known for creating the Italianate village of Portmeirion, an extensive and eccentric folly in North Wales.

Clove Y ci Cloves are the dried flower buds of the clovetree, an aromatic spice. Fr: clou "nail" (the word "claw" comes from the same root); its full name was clou de girofle; girofle being the "original" word for clove. Gr: karuphullon "clove" < karuon "nut" + phullon "leaf." Cloves are now most associated with Yuletide, when they are often added to mulled wines, seasonal pot-pourri, and pomanders. They have many other uses, however. Ruled by Jupiter and Fire, they are used in magic to work spells of protection, love, and exorcism. They also have numerous medicinal uses, clove oil being particularly valued for soothing a toothache. Late 19th C.

Clover 2 A small plant which often grows in lawns considered a blight by fastidious gardeners, but beloved by all those who delight in an afternoon lying in the grass looking for ones with four leaves. In old farming practice, clover was often sown as part of crop-rotation for the health-giving properties it returned to the soil. It is still grown today as fodder. Ruled by Mercury and Air, red clover is prized by herbalists for treating eczema and psoriasis-it is also used to treat some cancers. OE: clafre "clover." The surname Clover derives from OE: cleofan "to cleave" and "cut in two." This is the source of the Clover's first appearance as a given name in the eighteenth century. At the end of the nineteenth century, clover the flower came into use. Var: Clova.

Clovis c~ Earlier form of LOUIS, used in medieval literature for the name of the founder of the Merovingian Dynasty of Frankish kings-Clovis I (466-511 CE). Saki's novel *Chronicles of Clovis* (1911) promoted it in the twentieth century.

Clydach e Y A Welsh river, which may be cognate with CLODAGH and/or CLYDE. Early 20th C.

Clyde c~ 2 Scottish surname, deriving from the River Clyde. This probably derives from CC: *kluto- "fame" or the related *klus- "hear" - sections of

the Clyde, where it hurtles over waterfalls, are very noisy. The Clyde's name in Roman times was Clota, and it is very likely this is the name of a Goddess associated with the river. It is possibly cognate with the Irish CLODAGH and/or CLIODHNA, and Welsh CLYDACH. 19th C.

Clydno c~ Old Welsh name-clod "fame" + gno "renowned." It was borne by a sixth-century Celtic prince, said to have gone to Wales from Strathclyde to be a monk-but its similarity to the Irish CLIODHNA may not be coincidental. It may be that St. Clydno is one of a number of pre-Christian Gods or genii loci who changed sex when adopted as a saint. Early 20th C.

Clydri c' A seventh-century prince from the Welsh borders. W: clod "fame" + rhi "lord."

Clymene 2 A name borne by three characters in Greek mythology-most famously an Oceanid, who was the mother of Prometheus, Epimetheus, and Atlas. Gr: klumenos "famous." 17th C.

Clytemnestra Y The sister of Helen, Castor, and Pollux, wife and murderess of Agamemnon, murdered in turn by her children Orestes and Electra. Gr: klutos "famous" + mnester "wooer" or "suitor" < mnaomai "to be mindful" and "to solicit." 17th C.

Clytie 2 A Greek nymph, lover of the sun God Helios. When Helios abandoned her, she told the father of his new lover, Leucothoe. Leucothoe's father promptly buried his daughter alive. Helios was furious with Clytie and spurned her even more. Clytie wasted away gazing up at the sun-as she died, she became the heliotrope, her face following the sun forever more. Gr: klutos "fame." 19th C.

Cnidia Y Epithet of Aphrodite, from Cnidus-a town in Caria, Asia Minor, famous for its worship of the Goddess. Gr: knide "nettle."

Coal c~ Jet black and glittering, carbon-rich coal is what peat turns into after millions of years of being compressed beneath layers of rock; evidence of its organic past is often visible in the form of tiny recognizable fragments of plant life. Treated by most of the planet as nothing more

special than a fuel, coal is rapidly running out, and there may come a time when humble coal will be as rare as its carbon cousin the diamond. OE: col "coal" was originally applied to any lump of carbon glowing without a flame, a use which survives in expressions such as "live coal" and "coals of fire." The surname Coal is a variant of COLE. 19th C.

Cobra c~ Y The cobra is one of the most familiar of snakes, strongly associated with the snake charmers of the East. It is actually a family of snakes, found across Asia and Africa, with the best-known being the Indian nīg cobra-Naja naja. Cobras share much of the same symbolism as the snake. The rearing cobra featured on the headdress of Egyptian pharaohs as a symbol of kingship, power, and the divinity of the pharaoh. Port: cobra "snake"; the Portuguese originally dubbed it the cobra de capelo i.e. "the snake of the hood." 20th C.

Cobweb ? d The delicate webs woven by spiders are one of Nature's most beautiful treasures; few things are more lovely than a cobweb in the early morning bejeweled with dew, or frosted with snow. Cobwebs have long been associated with Witches; their persecutors have seen in it only a malign metaphor of entrapment, when a spell has been cast on someone. It also has become part of the iconography of the "wicked Witch"-the old hag in her dusty dark abode surrounded by "evil" things like spiders and bats. Fortunately, Witches have seen past all this to reclaim the cobweb as a symbol of the skilled weaver, symbolic of spell-working in a positive way. The cobweb is also symbolic of the "web" of life-i.e. the interconnectedness of all things. The word is a combination of ME: cop "spider" + web-originally used of any woven fabric. Late 20th C.

Coby c~ Originally a pet-form of JACOB, Coby has been used independently since the nineteenth century. Some use may also be related to the surname Coby, which is probably a variant of Cobb. OE: cobba "big man."

Cocidius G~ Celtic deity, associated with Mars. CC: *kokko "red."

Coco 2 Coco arose in the nineteenth century as a petname, often for names beginning with Co-. It was made famous by the French fashion designer Coco Chanel (1883-1971), whose real first name was Gabrielle. How she

acquired the sobriquet Coco is not entirely known. It is said by some to come from a song she sang when she worked as a cabaret singer. Chanel herself is said to have declared it came from cocotte-which is plausible. The French cocotte used to mean a woman of "light morals," but it was also used as a term of affection and shortened to "coco" in the expression *mon petit coca*. Most use of Coco as a given name post-dates Chanel's rise to fame.

Cocoa Y The name given to the powder from cacao seeds, used to make chocolate and chocolate drinks. Sp: cacao < Nahuatl *cacaua* < *cacahuatl* "cocoa bean." 20th C.

Cody c~ ? Irish surname. Anglicized form of both Mac Oda "son of Oda"-the meaning of Oda is unknown-and O Cuidighthead "son of a helpful person." 19th C. Var: Kody, Codi, Codie (mod). Its general use may have been inspired by the American folk-hero Buffalo Bill Cody (1846-1917).

Coeus e A Titan. The son of Gaia and Uranus and father of Leto and Asteria. Gr: *koeo* "to perceive" and "to hear."

Cohen c~ Jewish surname. Hebrew: *kohen* "priest." Particularly associated with the biblical Aaron. Although it is not a traditional Jewish given name, it is found in use in the ESW as an adoption of the surname from the late nineteenth century.

Col e Y Col is mostly a short-form of any of the names beginning with Col- such as COLIN and COLETTE, as well as of NICHOLAS, etc. It is also a variant of COLL. However, in Achumawi, col means both "sun" and "moon."

Colbert cc Germanic name introduced to Britain by the Normans. The second element is *berht*, but the first is uncertain. It may be OG: *hlut* "sound." It survived only long enough to give rise to the surname, which has been used since the seventeenth century.

Colby cc Y English surname, from one of the places of the name in England. ON: Koli or Kolli (probably short forms of names beginning with kol "coal" i.e. "dark" or "black") + *by* "farmstead," "village" or

"settlement." 17th C. Colby featured as the surname of one of the families in the American soap opera *Dynasty* (1981-89), which did much to raise its profile.

Colchis 2 Epithet of Medea, taken from the mythical city of Colchis-her hometown. 19th C.

Cole c~ Usual form of the name of the legendary king of Britain, familiar from the children's rhyme "Old King Cole." The origin is uncertain; it may be an Anglicized form of Caelius (see Caelia), or it may have Celtic origin, possibly deriving from CC: *kaylo- "omen" or from *koslo- "hazel." The English surname derives mostly from OE: Cola "coal," which was a common nickname for someone who was dark-haired or swarthy. 17th C. Var: Coel (hist); Kole (mod). Bearers: Cole Porter (1891-1964), whose mother's maiden name was Cole.

Coleridge c~ English surname, deriving from one of the places of the name meaning "coal ridge." Used in honor of English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834).

Colette 2 Now regarded as the French pet-form of NICOLE, Colette was also used in England in the Middle Ages as a diminutive of NICHOLAS when used for girls. Var: Colet, Colett, Colect, Coleta, Coletta, Colecta (hist). Colette returned to the ESW in the twentieth century, partly because of the celebrity of the flamboyant French novelist and actress Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette (1873-1954), who was known as simply Colette. Var: Collette.

Colin c~ In England, Colin arose as a medieval pet-form of NICHOLAS, while in Scotland, it is an Anglicized form of the Gaelic name Cailean. Sc Ga: cuilean "young pup" thought to have been used of a young warrior at the start of his training. By the sixteenth century, the English Colin had come to be regarded as a country bumpkin name-as the character of Colin Clout in Spenser's *The Shepheardes Calender* (1579) demonstrates. Colin was revived-or the Scottish Colin was adopted-at the end of the nineteenth century. The English pronunciation is "KOL-in," but "KOL-in" is often used in America. Var: Collin, Kolin (mod). Dim: COL. It Ga: Colin. Bearers: Colin Dexter (b. 1930), the English novelist; Colin Powell (b. 1937), the

American statesman; Colin Wilson (b. 1931), English author of *The Outsider* (1956) and *The Occult* (1971); Colin Firth (b. 1960), the British actor; Colin Farrell (b. 1976), the Irish actor.

Colina Y Scottish feminine form of COLIN. 18th C.

Coll Old Irish: coil "the hazel"-the Ogham name for the hazel. It is the ninth month of the Tree Calendar, from August 5 to September 1. Coll is also the name of an island in the Western Isles of Scotland, which also comes from coil "hazel." There is also the surname Coll, derived partly from the Old Norse Kollr "top" and "summit" and partly as a short form of COLIN. Var: COL. Bearers: Coll, a character in Lloyd Alexander's *Chronicles of Prydain* (1964-68).

Colleen 2 Anglicized form of Irish Gaelic cailin "young girl." It is rarely used as a name in Ireland, but has been taken up elsewhere as a given name since the nineteenth century, perhaps treated by some as a feminine form of COLIN. Var: Coleen. Bearers: Colleen McCullough (b. 1937), the Australian novelist.

Collen cc Y Welsh: collen "hazel." It is the name of the alleged sixth-century male saint who gave his name to the Welsh town of Llangollen, famous for its International Eisteddfod. Llangollen sits in an ancient sacred landscape, and it is tempting to suggest that rather than a saint, Collen represents an ancient deity. Late 19th C.

Colley cc English surname. OE: colig "swarthy" or "coal black." 17th C. Bearers: Colley Cibber (1671-1757), the playwright and poet laureate, whose mother's maiden name was Colley.

Colman c Irish Gaelic diminutive form of COLUMBA, deriving from the older form Columban. 01: Columba + dim. suffix -dn.

Cologne Y cc An old-fashioned word for "perfume" deriving from the Fr: can de Cologne and English "Cologne water," from Cologne in Germany, which was famous for perfume manufacture. Cologne-and all the other towns of the name-derives from L: colonia "colony," a name given to a Roman settlement in the provinces. 19th C.

Colt cc English surname. OE: colt "young animal"-specifically of young horses. Today, Colt is most associated with the firearms manufacturer and their famous revolver. 17th C.

Colton cc English surname, from one of the places called Colton in England. OE: COLE + tun. Var: Colten, Kolton, Kolten. 17th C.

Columba c~ Y St. Columba is one of Scotland and Ireland's favorite saints, credited with founding the monastery on Iona. L: columba "dove." The usual Gaelic forms are CALUM in Scotland, and COLMAN and Colm in Ireland. The name was so popular that it was even adopted by Viking

invaders in the form Kalman, who took it with them to parts of the North of England, giving rise to the surname Coleman in those areas. 19th C. Fr: Colombe.

Columbine Y A pretty flower of late spring and early summer, which bears the Latin name Aquilegia and the country name of granny's bonnet. It has long been grown as an ornamental flower in gardens. L: columba "dove." Ruled by Venus and Water, the columbine is used in magic to promote courage and in love spells. Columbine is also the name of the female clown of Harlequin fame, which is perhaps why in the language of flowers it symbolizes folly. 18th C.

Comet c~ 2 As unusual astronomical phenomena, comets were always going to be considered portentous by the ancients, who had no understanding of what they were. Even today, comets are often regarded as omens, and to see one is to understand why. There is a mysterious, almost eerie quality to the fuzzy glowing ball or streak that is a comet, so rare and fleeting. L: cometes < Gr: kometes "long-haired." In Greek mythology Cometes was borne by more than one character. 19th C.

Comfort cc Y The use of the English "comfort" as a given name dates to Puritan times, and was one of only a few abstract qualities bestowed upon boys as well as girls. The surname Comfort derives from the same source, but was used as a sobriquet in the Middle Ages. Bearers: Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933)-of Tiffany and Co. fame.

Comfrey 6 Y A herb with exceptional qualities, particularly for healing breaks and bruises. L: conferva, possibly from con "together" + fero "to bring," i.e. "to bring together"-a reference to the healing power of comfrey to fix broken bones. Country names for it are knitbone and boneset. Ruled by Saturn and Water, comfrey can also be used for protection when traveling. 20th C.

Comhghall c~ Old Irish name-comb "together" + gall "pledge." Var: Comgall. Sc Ga: Cbmhall.

Comyn g Anglicized form of the Gaelic name Cuimin or Coimin, a diminutive of cam "crooked" meaning "little crooked one." It was once common in Ireland and Scotland, giving rise to a large number of surnames including Comings, Comyn, Comyns, Cumin, Cumming, and Cummings. A seventh-century abbot of Iona was called CUMIN. Breton: Cunmin.

Con e Y Short form of many names beginning Con-, particularly CONNOR and CONSTANCE.

Conall c Old Irish name with very deep roots. CC: *kwon- "hound" or *kuno- "high" + *walo- "prince" or "chief." Anglicized as Connell. Var: Conal.

Conan c' A very old Celtic name. CC: *kwon- "hound" or *kuno- "high" + suffix -ano-. The Breton version passed into Norman use, and was taken by them to Britain, where it survived long enough to give rise to surnames such as Conan and Conant. Jr Ga: Conan, W. CYNAN.

Conchita 2 Spanish pet-form of Concepcion "conception" < L: Concepta, taken from a title for the Virgin Mary: Mary of the Immaculate Conception. The notion of an "immaculate conception"-i.e. a virgin birth-is not unique to Christianity; Zoroaster was said to have been born of a virgin, and there are even some instances in Greek mythology, such as Danae's conception of Perseus by Zeus in the form of a shower of gold. It also occurs in Hinduism. And one of the most memorable scenes in the British film The Wicker Man (1973) shows the young women of the village performing a rite at the stone circle in Lord Summerisle's grounds in the hope of

achieving "parthenogenesis." In Latin, conchita also happens to mean "mussel-gatherer," and is a masculine noun. Dim: Chita. It: Concetta.

Conchobhar cc' The Irish Gaelic name of one of Ireland's most famous and well-known mythological heroes. CC: *kwonor *kuno- "high" and "chief" + *kar-o- "love" or *barr "top," "point." Anglicized as CONNOR. Var: Conchobar, Conchur. Sc Ga: Conchar, Cornish: Congar, W: CYNRY.

Concordia ? Latin: concordia "harmony" and "union." Concordia is a Roman Goddess, equivalent of the Greek Harmonia. She is Goddess of marital harmony, agreement, and understanding, and in Roman times had several temples, the most important in the Roman Forum itself. 18th C. Var: Concord. Bearers: Coelia Concordia (d. 406 CE) the last Chief Vestal of the Vestal Virgins.

Condor cc The name of a huge and regal bird of South America and California. It is one of the three totem animals of the Chakana-the Inca cross-the others being the puma and the snake. The condor, soaring high in the sky, is symbolic of the Upper World of the Gods. Quechua: cuntar "condor." Condor is also an English surname, deriving from Condover in Shropshire-a combination of Cound (the name of a small river) + OE: *ofer "flat-topped ridge." 19th C.

Conifer c' 2 A genus of trees, so named because they bear cones, such as pines and firs. Largely evergreen, they are often used as a symbol of rebirth and eternal life. 20th C.

Conn e Often treated as a short form of CONNOR, Conn is an Irish Gaelic name in its own right. CC: *kuno "high." In Ireland it came to mean "chief"; the Modern Irish equivalent is ceann.

Connor e Anglicized form of CONCHOBHAR and variant of the surname O'Connor, the Anglicized form of O Conchobhair "descendant of Conchobhar." First used in the ESW in the nineteenth century. Dim: Conn. Var: Conor, Conner. In British English, the word "conner" is often used to mean "a conman." Bearers: Connor MacLeod, immortal hero of the American film Highlander (1986).

Conrad cc Old German: konja "bold" + rad "counsel." Used in the ESW since at least the sixteenth century. Ger: Konrad. Bearers: Conrad is the name of Manfred's sickly son in Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* (1764).

Conroy (' English surname. OFr: conroi "detachment of troops"-probably used of a leader of such a detachment. 19th C.

Constance Y Latin: Constantia "constancy" and "steadfastness." "There was, unsurprisingly, a saint of the name, one who, for once, is verifiable-sort of. She was said to have been a daughter of the Emperor Constantine. Constantine did indeed have a daughter called Constantina, and she has been venerated as a saint, but contemporary sources of her life are not exactly complimentary; Edward Gibbon described her as "one of the internal furies tormented with an insatiate thirst of human blood." Excellent material for canonization. Regardless of the historicity or otherwise of Saint Constantia, she was exceedingly popular in the Middle Ages, and became an equally popular name, rapidly developing into the vernacular Constance. After the Reformation, it tended to become confused with Puritan CONSTANCY, but in the eighteenth century, Constantia was resurrected, and Constance itself was revived in the nineteenth. Var: Custance, Custans, Constancia, Custancia (hist). Dim: Connie. Port: Constanga, Fr: Constance, It, Sp: Constanza, Ger: Constanze, Konstanze, Pol: Konstancja. Bearers: Constance Gore-Booth (1868-1927), later Countess Markiewicz, the Irish suffragette and revolutionary nationalist-she was also an old friend of Yeats, who wrote a poem about her and her sister Eva; Constance Neville, a character in Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773).

Constancy Y Latin: constantia "steadfastness," "steadiness," and "perseverance." 16th C.

Constant c~ Constant was one of the few "virtue" names adopted by the Puritans in the late sixteenth century for boys. A character called Constant features in Vanbrugh's play *The Provokd Wife* (1697).

Constantine c English form of Constantinus "belonging to CONSTANTIUS." It was a name borne by more than one Roman Emperor;

Constantine I is the one responsible for the use of the name. It was he that legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire, converting to Christianity, so the legend goes, on his death-bed. He is one of the most revered saints of the Orthodox Church, though his status in Catholicism is more ambiguous. Nevertheless, he was much revered in medieval times. There is evidence to suggest, indeed, that the name never fell out of use in Britain from Roman times, particularly in the Celtic-speaking regions. Another St. Constantine was supposed to be a sixth-century Cornishman who evangelized in Scotland, while a ninth-century Pictish king was called Constantine. In Ireland, it was used to render Conchobhar and Conn. In the Middle Ages, the usual form of the name was Costin, which was particularly popular in Devon and Cornwall. Sc Ga: Cbiseam, Dut: Constantijn, Fr, Rom: Constantin, Welsh: Custennin, Cystennin, Get, Hun, Ru: Konstantin, Pol: Konstanty.

Constantius c Roman cognomen < L: constans "constant" and "firm" < consto "to stand firm." Borne by a number of Roman emperors and saints. It: Constanzo.

Consuelo Y Spanish name-consuelo "consolation" and "solace," originally used in reference to the Virgin Mary, one of whose titles is Nuestra Senora del Consuelo "Our Lady of Consolation." Consuelo (1842-44), a novel by French authoress George Sand did much to make the name known outside the Spanish-speaking world. The name was also borne by two prominent Anglo-American socialites, Consuelo Clement, Duchess of Manchester (1858-1909), and her even more famous Goddaughter, Consuelo Vanderbilt, Duchess of Marlborough (1877-1964). 19th C. Dim: Chelo, Suelo.

Contessa Y Italian: contessa "countess." 20th C.

Cooper c~ English surname. ME: couper "a cooper," i.e. someone who makes and mends barrels. 17th C.

Copernicus c~ The influential fifteenth-/sixteenth-century Polish astronomer. Copernicus is a Latinized form of the village of Kopernik, from where his father came. Pol: koper "dill." 19th C.

Copper cc Y The metal copper has an alluring pink quality when first polished, which over time corrodes to an organic elven green, making a metal which could lay claim to associations with Fire and Earth, though it actually corresponds with Water. It has long been known for its healing properties; wearing copper bracelets to ease rheumatism is commonplace. Many people don't realize that copper is another trace metal essential to health-along with iron, calcium, magnesium, etc., and scientists are exploring its further benefits as a treatment for a number of conditions, including cancer. Interestingly, women do tend to have higher levels of copper-the metal of Venus-in their blood, while men have higher stored levels of iron-the metal associated with Venus's male counterpart, Mars.'The Copper Age is frequently overlooked and merged into the Bronze which followed it, but it was a distinct period when mankind first began to manipulate metals and form them into tools and weapons. The earliest examples-at Mehrgarh in what is now Pakistan-date from as early as the eighth millennium BCE.'The word "copper" derives from Cyprus, as copper was called by the Greeks "the Cyprian metal"-another link with Venus, one of whose epithets is CYPRIA.'The surname Copper arose partly as a variant of COOPER and partly from "copper" used metonymically for a coppersmith. In British English, "copper" is also a mild slang term for a policeman. 18th C.

Cora Y Cora first made its appearance in literature and opera, such as the 1791 opera Alonzo and Cora by Etienne Mehul and James Fenimore Cooper's The Last of the Mohicans (1826). It is a Latinized form of KORE, but may also have been influenced by CORINNA or CORALIE.'There is also the Incan fertility and Mother Goddess Mama Cora Ocllo, after whom an asteroid discovered in 1905 was named. Var: Coretta.

Coracesia 2 Magical plant of Roman legend, said to make water freeze. Gr: korax "raven."

Coral Y Coral is one of Nature's most beautiful and intriguing things-a "living rock" which dwells beneath the sea. A symbol of hope, coral in the past was used as a protective stone, especially for children; many portraits of children in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries show them wearing coral necklaces. Gr: korallion "red coral." Late 19th C.

Coralie 2 French name which came into use after the French Revolution, a time when the French people were encouraged to throw out the old and embrace the new. This included adopting completely new names for the months, so it is unsurprising a few personal names came out of it all too. Coralie was one of them, derived from Gr: korallion "red coral" or its Latin equivalent corallium. A very similar name is the Italian Coralina, which is used in France as Coraline. Both demonstrate influence from CAROLINE. Bearers: Coraline, the heroine of Neil Gaimans Coraline (2002).

Corauni y Romani: corauni "crown."

Corax cf Greek: korax "crow" and "raven." The Ancient Greeks don't seem to have been able to make up their minds whether ravens portended good weather or bad weather, as examples in literature demonstrate both. Corax was also used as a title grade in the Mysteries.

Corbett cf English surname. OF: corbet a diminutive of corb "raven" < Latin CORVUS. Late 16th C. Var: Corbet.

Corbie cf Y An old word for "raven," still used in Scotland. OF: corb "raven" < Latin CORVUS. Var: Corby.

Corbin cf French and English surname. OF: corbin "raven" < Latin CORVUS. 17th C. Var: Corben. Bearers: Corbin Bernsen (b. 1954), the American actor.

Corbinian cc St. Corbinian was a Frankish bishop who lived during the seventh/eighth centuries. Late Latin Corbinianus < Corvinianus "belonging to CORVINUS." 20th C. Ger: Korbinian.

Cordax Y Epithet of Artemis. The cordax was an Ancient Greek dance noted for its provocative and sensuous nature; Artemis was its patroness.

Cordelia 2 Seemingly invented by Shakespeare for the faithful daughter of King Lear, based on a version of her name in Raphael Holinshed's Chronicles (1577) and Monmouth's Historia Regum Britanniae, where it appears as Cordeilla. Where Monmouth got the name is unknown; he may have plucked it from the medieval tales of St. Ursula and her entourage of

ten thousand virgins, one of whom was called Cordula.'This could be L: cor "heart" + dim. suffix -ul-, i.e. "little heart." However, it could be Celtic in origin, a Latinized form of CREUDDYLAD. 18th C. Bearers: Lady Cordelia Flyte, a character in Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* (1945); Cordelia Gallowglass, a character in Christopher Stasheff's *Warlock of Gramarye* series (1969-2004); Cordelia Chase, a character in the American television drama *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003).

Corentin f The name of a fifth-century Breton saint, deriving from Corentinus, the Latinized form of the Breton Kaourintin. Almost certainly from CC: *kawaro- "hero" and "champion"; Kauaros is an attested Gaulish personal name. It is also preserved in the village of Cury in Cornwall, where the church is dedicated to St. Corentin. Used in the ESW from the late nineteenth century. Fem: Corentine.

Corey 6 Y English surname deriving from either Old Norse Kori possibly < korpr "raven," or Kari < kdr "curl in the hair." 17th C. Var: Cory; Cori.

Coria y Epithet of Athene < Gr: kore "maiden."

Coriander c~ ? An herb, known as cilantro in North America. Fr: coriandre < L: coriandrum < Gr: koriannon. An earlier English form was colander which came from OE: cellandre.'The ultimate origin is unknown. Governed by Mars and Fire, coriander is associated magically with love and healing. Its principal use is culinary, although it is used in herbal medicine for minor digestive complaints. 20th C.

Corin Not an easy name to pin down. Its origins appear to be French and the most likely explanation is that it evolved as a male form of Corinne, the French form of CORINNA.'There is also a legendary Greek epic poet called Corinnus, who was supposed to have lived at the time of the Trojan War and composed an epic poem about it on which Homer based *The Iliad*. Contrary to what some have claimed, however, Corin was not used as the name of a shepherd in classical poetry.'The name does, however, feature as the name of a shepherd in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Another Corin is mentioned in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a pastoral context; this is likely to be a reference to the poet Corinnus. Suggestions that it derives from QUIRINUS don't hold water. St. Quirinus in France is called St.

Quirin. There is no "St. Corin." 19th C. Bearers: Corin Redgrave (b. 1939), the British actor. Corin is also the name of a prince in C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*.

Corineus c~ A giant who, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, was the eponymous founder of Cornwall. It is possible Geoffrey simply invented him, to explain Cornwall's name. It is also possible that he did indeed represent the survival in folklore of some ancient hero-or deity. If the latter, it might possibly be CERNUNNOS.

Corinna 2 A Greek poetess of the sixth century BCE from Tanagra in Boeotia. Corinna was also used by the poet Ovid in his poetry as the pseudonym of his mistress. The name was popular with English poets in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries-Robert Herrick in particular. Gr: kore "maiden" + fem. suffix -inna. 17th C. Var: Corina. Fr: Corinne.

Coriolanus c~ Roman cognomen, most associated with fifth-century BCE Gaius Marcius Coriolanus-subject of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*-who earned it after exhibiting exceptional bravery during the siege of Corioli, a city of the Volscians. He is famous for later betraying Rome and leading a Volscian army against the city-only to be persuaded from attacking by his wife and mother. 17th C.

Corisande 2 A name principally of medieval romance. Lady Corisande is the heroine of Benjamin Disraeli's novel *Lothair* (1870). Disraeli may have been inspired to use the name from the French-born Armandine Corisande de Gramont, wife of the 5th Earl of Tankerville. Her son, a conservative MP contemporaneous with Disraeli, named his own daughter Corisande in 1856. The etymology is uncertain; the first element is likely intended to be the Latin *cor* "heart." The second may very possibly be a contracted form of L: *sanandus* "healing" < *sano* "to heal." Latter 19th C.

Cormac e Old Irish name which features more than once in Irish myth and legend. Possibly from OF: *corb* "raven" or OI: *cairb* "charioteer" + suffix -ac. Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Sc Ga: Cormag.

Cornel e ? A type of dogwood, often called the cornelian cherry. MF: *cornioille* < L: *corpus* "cornelian cherry." Its fruit are red and the size and

shape of olives.'The European variety is not used in herbal medicine, but the fruit is used for jams and sauces. Cornel is also a now obsolete form of KERNEL. 18th C.

Cornelia 2 Feminine of CORNELIUS. 17th C. Dim: Cornie, Corrie.
Bearers: Cornelia (c. 190-100 BCE), daughter of Scipio and mother of the Roman statesmen Gaius and Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus-often referred to as simply "The Gracchi."

Cornelian c' Y The name of a type of Jasper-much prized for its red color-and a type of cherry (see Cornel). The stone was a favorite among the Romans, who used it in signet rings, often carved with images of Gods and Goddesses.'These are found by the bucket-load on sites where there were Roman baths; the stones fell out of the settings during bathing-unfortunate for their Roman owners, but archaeological gems (in the most literal sense of the word) for us.'The Middle English form was CORNELINE. Either L: corneolus "made of horn" < corms "horn" and "nail" (perhaps so named because the stone is sometimes the color of a fingernail) or L: cornus "cherry-tree" (a reference to the stone's usual deep cherry-red color). Cornelian is considered a wonderful stone for banishing negativity and unease; good for boosting enthusiasm and getting creative juices flowing. Late 19th C.

Corneline Y An earlier form of CORNELIAN. It is found as a given name from the nineteenth century, perhaps treated as a variant of CORNELIA.

Cornelius c~ Roman gens. Probably derives from L: cornu "horn."The name of an early saint, his relics ended up in Flanders-accounting for the popularity of the name in the Low Countries, usually in the Dutch form Cornelis. Used in the ESW since the sixteenth century. Dim: Cornie. Cz, Pol: Kornel, Hun: Kornel. Bearers: Cornelius Johnson (1593- 1661) a.k.a. Cornelis Janssens van Ceulen, the Anglo-Dutch artist; Cornelius Fudge, a Minister of Magic in the Harry Potter books.

Cornell c~ English surname. Derives in part from places called Cornhill (OE: corn "heron" or "crane" + halh "corner of land") as well as the county of Cornwall (L: Cornovii [see Kernow] + OE: walk "Welsh people," and "Britons"). Another source is the OF: corneille "roof" or "crow," which

was probably used as a nickname for someone who talked a lot-raucously. It is unlikely to be connected to CORNELIUS, as the name was not used in Britain during the surname period. Cornell University in New York State was named after one of its founders, Ezra Cornell (1807-74), an American businessman.

Cornflower Y Once the sight of the sky-blue cornflower nodding in the meadows and wheat-fields of Britain was common; nowadays cornflowers are rarely found outside gardens, the rest killed off by herbicides sprayed relentlessly on crops. In the language of flowers, it symbolizes refinement.

Cornificia 2 Feminine of Cornificius, a Roman gens. L: cornu "horn" +facio "to make"-presumably used originally of someone who made items out of horn. Bearers: Cornificia (c. 85-45 BCE), a Roman poetess.

Corona 2 Latin: corona "crown." Used in modern astronomy for the halo around the full moon. There are also two constellations of the name-Corona Borealis "The Northern Crown," and Corona Australis "The Southern Crown." 19th C.

Corran c~ Legendary bard of the Tuatha De Danann, famous for his skill at the harp. The name is most likely a diminutive of the Irish Gaelic corr "crane." Alternatively, it may have originated as a diminutive of caor "rowan berry," or may even be a corruption of caorthann "rowan tree." Ceis Chorrain-often called Keshcorran in English-is a hill in Co. Sligo, Ireland, which is steeped in folklore. It features in "The Enchanted Cave of Keshcorran" in the Fenian Cycle. Var: Coran, Jr Ga: Coran.

Corvina Y Feminine form of CORVINUS. Today, Corvina is the name of an Italian variety of wine grape, which is one of those used to make Valpolicella. 20th C.

Corvinus cc Latin: corvinus "of CORVUS." A Roman cognomen mostly associated with the gens Valeria. Bearers: Marcus Valerius Messalla Corvinus (64 BCE-8 CE) was a prominent Roman general and patron of the arts. He was said to own considerable estates in what later became Hungary, and the Hungarian family of Korvin claimed to be his

descendants. One of them, Matthias Corvinus (1443-1490), was king of Hungary.

Corvus c Roman cognomen, especially of the gens Valeria. L: corvus "raven." 20th C.

Corydon c~ A shepherd in Virgil's Eclogues, which became a stock-in-trade name for a shepherd in pastoral poetry. Gr: korudos "crested lark." 17th C.

Corydus cc Epithet of Apollo. Gr: korudos "crested lark."

Corylus cc Y Latin: corylus "hazel" < Gr: korulos. 20th C.

Cosmo 6 English form of Italian Cosimo, first used in the ESW when it was bestowed c.1720 by the 2nd Duke of Gordon upon his son, in honor of his close friend Cosimo III de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany (1642-1723). Cosimo itself is the Italian form of the Greek Kosmas. Gr: kosmos "order," "world," and "universe." St. Kosmas was one half of an ecclesiastical double act-the other being St. Damianos (see Damian). It has been suggested that the veneration of Kosmas and Damianos represents a survival of the worship of Castor and Pollux, the heavenly twins, still acknowledged in the constellation Gemini. Fem: Cosima.

Cotton ? Cotton has been cultivated for thousands of years; the earliest cultivation taking place in Mexico in the seventh and sixth millennia BCE, followed a millennium or so later in the Indus Valley. Ar: qutun, possibly from Phoenician qin "thin." The English surname Cotton, derives from one of the many places called Cotton < OE: cotum "at the cottages" < cot "cottage" and "hut." 17th C.

Cottyto Y A Greek fertility Goddess-sometimes described as a Goddess of "unchastity." Originally Thracian, her worship later spread to Athens and Corinth. It reputedly included orgies. Var: COTYS.

Cotys c~ Y The name of a number of Thracian princes in ancient times. Also a variant of COTTYTO.

Courage c~ Y Middle English: corage "courageous" < OF: corage < L: cor "heart." The surname Courage derives from Cowridge (End), the old name of Scourge End in Bedfordshire < OE: cu "cow" + hricc "ridge." 19th C.

Courageous c~ English adjective < COURAGE. Captains Courageous is an 1897 novel by Rudyard Kipling and a comic strip which has run since 1941.

Courtney Y English surname. The most correct form is Courtenay, from Courtenay in France. This is usually derived from a Gallo-Romanic personal name *Curtenus < L: curtus "shortened," "mutilated," "broken," and "short." The Courtenays were an old and aristocratic family, which acquired the Earldom of Devon. 17th C. It came into widespread use for girls only in the latter half of the twentieth century. Var: Courteney. Bearers: Courteney Cox (b. 1964), the American actress.

Coven Y c~ The English surname Coven derives either from OF: corvine "fraud" and "deceit" or from the village of Coven in Staffordshire, which gets its name from OE: cofum "at the caves" or "at the shelters" < cofa "cave," "den," "chamber," and "shelter." The word "coven" originally meant simply "meeting" or "assembly" and-ironically-evolved from the word convent < L: convenio "to come together." It acquired its association with Witches in the seventeenth century.

Coventina Y Celtic Goddess, whose worship is well attested in the region of Hadrian's Wall. She is sometimes depicted and referred to as a Triple Goddess, and she may well be one and the same with the Celtiberian Goddess Cuhvetana and a similarly named Goddess worshipped at Narbonne in France. Her shrine at Brocolitia (Carrawburgh) incorporates a sacred spring, and finds there suggest she is a Goddess of fertility and healing. The etymology is unfortunately muddy. However, the forms Cuhvetana and Coventina hint at the most plausible derivation from CC: *kom- "together" + *w(Et(t)f "stream" and "swamp" or *wfti "soothsayer" and "prophet"-but the former is more likely. 20th C.

Coventry Y (~ English surname deriving from the historic city of Coventry in the English Midlands. Coventry was the scene of Lady Godiva's famous ride; unfortunately, it was blitzed to smithereens during the Second World

War and rebuilt with extreme insensitivity in the post-War period. OE: Cofa (a personal name of uncertain history) or cofa chamber," "cave," "den," and "shelter" + treow "tree." Bearers: Coventry Patmore (1823-96), an English (male) poet; Coventry Dalkin, the central (female) character in Sue Townsend's novel *Rebuilding Coventry* (1988). In British English, "to send to Coventry" means to exclude or ostracize.

Coy cc Y English surname. OF: coi "quiet"-later "shy." The word "coy" has passed into modern English with the sense of affected shyness, used largely of girls and young women. 18th C.

Craig cc Scottish surname, deriving from OE: crag "precipitous rugged rock." 17th C.

Cramesy ? e Archaic variant of CRIMSON. The word has been little used since the early nineteenth century-and even then only in literary contexts.

Cranberry Y e There are essentially two sorts of cranberry-European and American. The European has all sorts of other names such as marsh-whorts, marsh-berries, and moss-berries. In Germany they were called kranichbeere and kranbeere "crane berry." The American cranberry is the same species, but has larger fruit, and it is thought the word "cranberry" itself arose in America in the seventeenth century as a name for it, based on the German name or the similar Dutch equivalent. Their use is mostly culinary-particularly cranberry sauce-but they are widely praised for numerous health-giving properties.

Crane c~ 2 The crane was once native to the British Isles, and considered one of the most sacred of her wildlife by the Celts-along with the wolf and the boar. It became extinct there in the eighteenth century. The crane is symbolic of patience and focus; it stands as still as a statue as it fishes, waiting to pounce at lightning speed when a fish swims by. In Japan, the crane stands for loyalty and honor, while in China, the crane represents longevity. OE: cran "crane."The surname derived from the bird and was probably used originally of someone who was long-legged. 17th C.

Crassus e Roman cognomen, particularly of the gens Licinia. Marcus Licinius Crassus (c. 115-53 BCE) was a powerful Roman general and

politician, who formed what is known as the "First Triumvirate" with Julius Caesar and Pompey the Great-essentially a dictatorship of three and the first major death-throw of the Republic. L: crassus "thick"; applied to the air, it means "misty," applied to people, "uneducated."The English "crass" derives from it.

Crataegus c~ Y Botanical name for hawthorn. L: crataegos < Gr: krataigos "thorn-tree."

Craterus c Epithet of Hermes. Gr: krateros "very strong" or "most strong," superlative of kratos "strong" and "mighty."

Cratus c? Epithet of Hermes. Gr: kratos "strong" and "mighty."

Crawford c~ Scottish surname, from Crawford in Lanarkshire. OE: crane "crow" + ford "ford." 17th C.

Creidne Y A female warrior of Irish mythology. Jr Ga: creid "to believe."

Creighton e Scottish surname, from Crichton in Midlothian. Sc Ga: crioch "boundary" + OE: tun. 18th C.

Creirwy Y The daughter of Ceridwen and Tegid Foel, said to be the most beautiful maiden in the world. MW: creir "relic" and "sacred object" + -wy.

Crescence Y An obsolete English word meaning "growth" and "increase," derived from L: Crescentia "increase" and "augmentation" < CRESCENS. Crescentia was the name of an obscure fourth-century saint associated with St. Vitus.

Crescens cc Latin: crescens "growing" < cresco "to come into existence," "spring forth," "arise," "grow," and "increase." The verb was also used specifically of the waxing moon, and derives from the same source as CERES. Crescens was used as a Roman cognomen, and features as the name of a minor character in the New Testament. 16th C.

Crescent c y Latin: CRESCENS.'The word "crescent" in English has been used of the moon in either its early or late phase since the sixteenth century,

and applied to anything "crescent-moon shaped" from as early as the fourteenth century. Used as a given name from the seventeenth century, though it may originally have occurred as a variant spelling of CRESCENS.

Crescentius G~ A name borne by four alleged saints. L: CRESCENS. Late 19th C.

Cressida ? The faithless lover of Troilus in Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida. The story was not new; Shakespeare probably got it from Chaucer, where her name appears as Criseyde. Chaucer, in turn, lifted it from Boccaccio, who recorded it as Criseida, and lastly Boccaccio took the story from the original version, composed by Benoit Ste Maure in the twelfth century-in which Cressida appears as Briseida. Ste Maure adopted an inflected form of the Ancient Greek name BRISEIS, mixing up the two women who were taken as concubines by Agamemnon and Achilles. Boccaccio put this right by similarly adapting the name of the other, which in Greek was Chryseis. Gr: khrosos "gold." 17th C. Dim: Cress, Cressa, Cressie, Cressy.

Creuddylad Y In Welsh mythology, Creuddylad was the daughter of Llud and the fairest maiden in all of Britain. She captured the attention of Gwyn ap Nudd, who abducted her. It is highly possible that Creuddylad is the origin of CORDELIA. CC: *kred- "heart" + *dligito- "duty," "debt," and "pledge." Var: Creiddylad.

Creusa 2 A name borne by more than one character in Greek mythology-among them the first wife of the Trojan Aeneas and the mother of his son Ascanius. She was a daughter of King Priam and his queen, Hecuba, and died during the fall of Troy. Another Creusa was a daughter of King Erechtheus of Athens, and mother of Ion. Gr: kreiousa "lady" and "mistress." 19th C.

Crimson c~ Y The name of the rich red color, sharing all the same associations as red. It derives ultimately from the same Arabic source as CARMINE and CRAMESY, through Medieval L: cremesinus. Late 19th C.

Crina Y Romanian name-crin "lily."

Crinan c' Scots Gaelic name. Borne by Crinan of Dunkeld (d. 1045), the ancestor of Clan Dunbar. Sc Ga: crin "miserly"+ dim. suffix -an. Revived 20th C.

Crisiant 2 Welsh: crisiant "crystal" and "bright." It was borne by a twelfth-century Welsh noblewoman-a cousin of Owain of Gwynedd. Revived 20th C.

Crispin, Crispian // These two names are closely related-in more ways than one. St. Crispian and St. Crispin were a pair of third-century shoemakers, supposedly martyred in Soissons in 284 CE. As a result, they are, unsurprisingly, the patron saints of shoemakers (one for each foot?). Crispian is the English form of Latin Crispianus "belonging to Crispus"; Crispin of Crispinus "of Crispus."The Roman cognomen Crispus was common in Roman times. L: crispus "curly(haired)." Both Crispian and Crispin were used in the Middle Ages; Crispin was the slightly more popular and never quite died out. Another medieval variant-for those who couldn't quite make up their mind between the two-was Crispinian. Bearers: Crispin Glover (b. 1964), the American actor; Crispin Bonham-Carter (b. 1969), the British actor.

Crispina Y Feminine of CRISPIN. The name of an early fourth-century saint. Bearers: Bruttia Crispina (c. 164- 182/187 CE), the wife of the Emperor Commodus. He had her executed.

Critola ? A sixth-century BCE princess from the Hellenistic city of Cyrene in what is now Libya. Little is known about her except that she had a reputation for dignity. Gr: kritos "picked out" and "excellent" + dim. suffix -ol-.

Crius / A Titan, son of Ge and Uranus. Gr: krios "ram"also used by the Greeks for Aries.

Crocea 2 Latin: croceus "saffron-colored," "golden," and "yellow"-it features in numerous botanical names. In medieval legend Crocea Mors-"golden death"-was the name of Julius Caesar's sword, taken by the British prince Nennius in combat. Nennius died of a head wound inflicted by

Caesar a fortnight later-but not before becoming invincible in battle against all who came against him.'the sword was buried with him.

Crocus Y e A much-loved spring and autumn flower, prized for its saffron. It is under the governance of Venus and Water and symbolic of joy and merriment.'The saffron crocus is used by herbalists to treat conditions such as poor circulation and high blood pressure. Gr: krokos "crocus" and "saffron." Late 19th C.

Cromlech c~ Welsh: crom "crooked" + llech "(flat) stone"the word "cromlech" is a more accurate term for a dolmen.

Cronin c~ Old Irish name-cron "swarthy" + dim. suffix -an. Originally a nickname. Anglicized as Cronan or Cronin.

Cronos c~ The chief of the Titans, Cronos was the father of Zeus. He was ultimately overthrown by his son and imprisoned with most of the other Titans in Tartarus.'The Romans identified him with Saturn. Cronos is now considered to be a God of the fecundity of the Earth, and the sickle he carries a symbol of this-in the past it was interpreted as a reference to the fact he had castrated his own father, Uranus. Late 20th C. Var: Cronus.

Crow c~ ? The crow is one of the most maligned and misunderstood of all birds. Its long association with death and battle is no doubt because, as a carrion bird, it is no more squeamish about eating humans than any other dead animal, and to it a battlefield is a good source of food. One of the common Celtic words for crow is *bodwo-, from which the battle Goddess Badhbh got her name. Crows are, however, one of the cleverest of all birds. A mistranslation of the Native American tribe of the Apsaalooke as "people of the crows" gave the Native American Crow tribe their name.'The surname Crow is from OE: crawe "crow." Its use as a surname in Ireland and the Isle of Man is as a translation of Mac Fiachain-"son of the crow."The surname Crowley is a combination of crawe + leah.18th C. Var: Crowe.

Cruz Y c~ In the Spanish-speaking world, Cruz is a longestablished name used for girls; Santa Cruz refers to the cross Jesus was supposedly crucified upon. It has recently been taken up in the ESW as a boy's name, probably

under the influence of the word "cruise"-which is exactly how the boy's name is pronounced-and possibly influenced by the fame of American actor Tom Cruise (b. 1962). Deriving from the French form Croix is the Huguenot surname Crusoe, made famous by Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe (1719); David and Victoria Beckham named their youngest son Cruz in 2005.

Crystal Y Latin: crystallus < Gr: krystallos "clear ice" and "rock crystal" < kruos "frost." Since ancient times, societies across the world have valued the many different varieties of crystals for their intrinsic beauty and innate qualities relating to healing and spirituality. Late 19th C. Var: Christel, Christelle, CHRISTELLA, Chrystal, Cristal, Crystle, Krystal, Krystal-the last made well-known by a character in the American soap opera Dynasty (1981-89).

Crystallina Y Latin: crystallinus "made of CRYSTAL." Late 19th C.

Crystallion c Y The Latin name of a plant, which was also known as psyllion. Today, pysllion or pysllium is associated with the plantain family, but whether this was true in the ancient world or not is unknown.

Csaba e Traditional Hungarian name. According to folktradition, it was borne by a son of Attila the Hun. It may derive from Hun: csdb "lure," csapds "adversity," "calamity" and "misfortune," csdp "horn" or csap "peg" and "key."

Csenge y Hungarian name. Hun: csenget "to ring the bell" and "to clang."

Csilla Y Hungarian name. Hun: csillag "star." It first seems to have been used by the Hungarian writer Andras Dugonics in his novel Etelka (1788).

Cu Chulainn c~ The name given to the great Ulster hero Setanta after he killed the prized watchdog of the smith Culann. To make up for it, he took on the role of guard dog himself, until Culann could train a new dog. Cu Chulainn means "hound of Culann." Culann possibly derived from cuil "angry," or an old form of cuileann "holly." Names beginning with cii "hound" weren't that unusual in early Ireland, reflecting the much higher regard the Celts had for dogs. Others include Cu Chaille or Cu Choille

"hound of the wood," Cu Dubh "black hound," Cu Mara "hound of the sea" and Cu Meda or Cu Mheadha "mead hound."

Cuan c~ Old Irish name-cu "hound" + dim. suffix -anoriginally a nickname.

Cuimhne 2 Irish Gaelic: cuimhne "remembrance," "memory," and "recollection." It features in Irish myth as the name of a Witch who helped Mongan get his wife back. Var: Cuimne.

Cuirithir c~ In Irish mythology, Cuirithir was the lover of Liadan, and together they are the Irish Abelard and Heloise. When he went away, she at first waited for him. But he didn't return-so she became a nun. Typically, at that point, he came back, but it was too late, so he became a monk.

Culhwch c~ The hero of the important Welsh tale Culhwch and Olwen, which features in the Mabinogion.the etymology is uncertain; in the Mabinogion, it is explained as deriving from W: cul "narrow" + hwch "sow."The common Celtic word from which cul evolved had the broader meaning of "thin," while *sukko- from which hwch derived, meant "pig," not just "sow." Pigs held an important place in Welsh mythology, and so "thin pig" would not have just been a whimsical name given by a mother to a skinny pink baby. 21st C.

Cullen a' English and Irish surname.'The English derives from COLOGNE. The Irish arose as a variant of the Irish surname MacCullen or O'Cullinane, from Jr Ga: Mac Cuileannain or O Cuileannain "son/descendant of Cuileannan." Cuileannan is an Old Irish name from cuiledn "whelp" or "puppy," or cuilleann "holly" + dim. suffix -dn. The vampire Edward Cullen in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series (2005-8) has raised the name's profile considerably. 17th C. Var: Cullan.

Cumin c' ? Cumin is regarded by many people today as a quintessentially Indian spice, but it has actually been known in Europe since ancient times-one of the spices traded along the fabled Spice Road. It is mentioned in the writings of Ancient Greeks, as well as in the Bible.'The Romans were particularly fond of it, and the wealthy used copious amounts of it in their dishes. To the Romans, it was also, however, a symbol of avarice. Ruled by Mars and Fire, it is used in magic in spells relating to banishing bad spirits

or negativity, protection and faithfulness. In Western herbalism, it is still sometimes used for minor digestive problems, but it is most used in Ayurvedic medicine. L: cuminum < Gr: kuminon < Heb: kammon or Ar: kammun "cumin." The surname Cumin is a variant of COMYN. 19th C.

Cunedda c~ A legendary fifth-century Brythonic warleader, said to have led a band of Britons from Scotland (Strathclyde) to protect Wales from the Saxons and the Irish. He is considered the ancestor of all the Welsh princely houses. CC: *kuno- "high" and "chief" + *dago- "good." Var: Cynedda. Early 20th C.

Cunobelinus e A British king of the first century CE, who ruled over both the Trinovantes and the Catuvellauni tribes. He was an important and influential man, whose name was not only recorded by Roman historians but was also passed down in folklore. He is the source of Shakespeare's Cymbeline. CC: *kwon- "hound" + BELENUS. W: Cynfelyn.

Cursa Y A star in Eridanus, often called the "footstool of Orion." It possibly derives from Gr: kureo "to alight upon."

Curtis a' English surname. OF: corteis "courteous." 16th C.

Cushla Y A name coined in the nineteenth century from the Irish term of endearment cuisle mo croidhe "pulse of my heart" (Cushla itself deriving from cuisle "pulse"). The whole phrase is usually Anglicized today as Cushla Macree though in the past it has been written in various ways, such as the 1849 ship Cushlamachree which conveyed many Irish refugees of the potato famine to new lives in America. Most use has been outside Ireland.

Cuthbert G~ Old English: cuth "famous" + beorht. It is one of the few entirely English names to successfully survive the Norman Conquest and remain in steady use to the present, especially in the North of England, with which Cuthbert was most associated. Its popularity in the past was largely down to St. Cuthbert, who had seventy-two churches dedicated to him. Dim: Cuddie, Cuddy. Bearers: Cuthbert, Lord Collingwood (1748-1810), a British admiral during the Napoleonic Wars.

Cyan c~ ? The name of a greenish-blue color-often called aqua or turquoise-coined in the latter nineteenth century from Gr: kuanos "dark-blue enamel." 20th C.

Cybele Y One of the most important Goddesses of the ancient world. The cult of Cybele began in Phrygia, Asia Minor, but spread across the Greco-Roman world in historic times; the arrival of her cult statue in Rome is even documented. Cybele is a Mother Goddess, and in ancient texts was sometimes referred to as the "Mother of the Gods."The Greeks identified her with Zeus's mother, the Titaness Rhea, although in the Phrygian myth about Cybele, she came forth from sperm ejaculated by Zeus in his sleep on Mount Dindymus. At first Cybele was a strange creature, with male and female genitals; alarmed at what such a child of Zeus might do when fully grown, the other Gods cut off the male genitalia.'These turned into an almond tree. A daughter of the river God Sangarius placed one of the almonds from this tree into her lap; it mysteriously vanished. Nine months later, she gave birth to Attis. Late 17th C.

Cybi c~ The sixth-century Welsh saint who gives his name to Caergybi-the Welsh name for the port of Holyhead on the Druid Island of Anglesey. Late 20th C.

Cyclamen y A small, pretty winter flower, symbolic of resignation and farewell. L: cyclamen < Gr: kuklaminos or kuklamis < kuklos "circle"-a reference to the shape of the root.'The circle is an important symbol in Paganism, symbolizing the cyclical nature of all aspects of life from the turn of the days and the seasons to the journey of the soul through lifetimes. Cyclamen is ruled by Venus and Water and is associated with fertility, protection, and happiness. In the past, the root was made into cakes, which were supposed to cause those who ate them to fall passionately in love. Late 19th C.

Cydimus cc Epithet of Hermes. Gr: kudimos "glorious."

Cydon c~ An old name for the quince, deriving from CYDONIA. It is also the name of the legendary founder of Cydonia. Late 20th C.

Cydonia y Epithet of Athene. L: Cydonius "of Cydonia" a town on Crete where she was worshipped. It is also the Latin name for a quince, from which the word "quince" developed-the fruit was said to have originated in Cydonia. According to legend, the town of Cydonia was named after a king called CYDON. The name bears a strong resemblance to Gr: kudos "glory" and "might," and the verbs kudaino "to glorify," and kudiano "to triumph," and "to be proud." 19th C.

Cygnēt Y d A baby swan. ME: sygnett, diminutive of Fr: cigne "swan" < CYGNUS. 19th C.

Cygnus cc Latin: cygnus "swan." A son of Neptune, who was turned into a swan and eventually placed in the sky as the constellation of the name. Late 20th C.

Cymodoce Y A Nereid. Gr: kuma "wave of the sea" + doke "vision."

Cymothoe Y A Nereid. Gr: kuma "wave of the sea" + thoos "swift" and "nimble."

Cynan c~ Welsh equivalent of CONAN. It was borne by a number of figures of Welsh mythology and early history including a son of Don, surviving in use well into the Middle Ages before finally becoming obsolete in the fifteenth century. Revived 19th C.

Cynfor a Welsh: cyn "chief" + mawr "great" or mor "sea" although the very similar Brythonic name Cunomorinus, recorded in the third century, is usually interpreted as meaning "hound of the sea." Cynfor was borne by an early figure in Welsh history. Revived 20th C.

Cyngar c~ Sixth-century Welsh saint, almost certainly a variant of CYNRY. Cornish: Cougar, Cungar.

Cynog c~ Sixth-century Welsh saint, one of the supposed sons of Brychan Brycheiniog. He is associated with a number of churches in Mid and South-East Wales and Herefordshire. Probably W: cyn "chief" + dim. suffix -og. Revived 19th C.

Cynthia Y Epithet of Artemis, meaning "of Cynthus." Cynthus was a mountain on the island of Delos, where Artemis and her brother Apollo were born, and in ancient times, Delos was regarded as sacred to them. The Roman poet Propertius used Cynthia as the pseudonym of his mistress. It was taken up again by poets in the seventeenth century, and use as a given name dates from around the same time. Dim: Cyn, CINDY, Cimmie. It: Cinzia. Bearers: Cynthia Kirkpatrick, a character in Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *Wives and Daughters* (1866); Cynthia Murdoch, a character in Agatha Christie's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920).

Cynwal c Old Welsh name-cyn "chief" + gwal "leader." A related name is Cynwallon-cyn "chief" + gwallon "ruler."

Cynyr ' Cynyr may simply be the Welsh form of CONNOR; there were settlers from Ireland in Wales in the subRoman period, from the fifth to the seventh centuries, so it is perfectly possible. Alternatively, it may be W: cyn "chief" + gwyr "man." Cynor is said to have been the name of the father of St. Non, and thus the grandfather of St. David. Late 20th C. Var: CYNGAR.

Cyparissia Y Epithet of Athene. Gr: kuparissios "of the CYPRESS."

Cyparissius A youth beloved by Apollo, who was extremely fond of his pet-stag. He was so devastated when he accidentally killed it that he asked Apollo to allow him to mourn forever, and so Apollo turned him into the CYPRESS. Gr: kuparissos "cypress."

Cypress Y a An elegant evergreen tree, evocative of the Mediterranean. It has long been associated with death and mourning-the ancients believed it was named after CYPARISSIUS. Branches and sprigs were used as a symbol of mourning in both ancient times and more recent; references to the practice are made in English literature from the sixteenth century. Its association with death may go back to Egyptian times, where coffins were made of cypress wood. In magic, it is still recommended for easing grief It is also used for healing and protection. Early 20th C.

Cypria Y Another name for Aphrodite, who, according to the myth, was born from the sea-foam at Cyprus, making Cyprus sacred to her. L: Cyprius

"of Cyprus" < Gr: Kuprios "of Cyprus"; kuprios also means "(made) of copper". The island is thought to derive its name from CYPRESS-i.e. "the island of the cypress trees". 19th C.

Cyprian e Latin: Cyprianus "of CYPRIA," St. Cyprian was a third-century saint. 13th C. It: Cipriano.

Cyrano ' Cyrano was made famous in the ESW by Edmond Rostand's 1887 play *Cyrano de Bergerac*, which was based on the adventures of the French dramatist and soldier Hector Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac (1619-55). Its origins are unknown; it may have originally been conceived as an elaboration of CYRUS. Late 19th C.

Cyrene Y A nymph loved by Apollo. She was a huntress on Mount Pelion, but Apollo carried her to Libya, where a city was founded in her honor-so the myth goes. The ruins of Cyrene are some of the most impressive to survive from the ancient world. Possibly Gr: kuros "supreme power." 19th C.

Cyriack c~ Greek: kuriakos "lordly." The name of an early saint, the young son of St. Julitta. A number of medieval churches were dedicated to him. 17th C. Var: Cyr. "To Cyriack Skinner Upon His Blindness" was a poem written by the seventeenth-century poet John Milton to his friend.

Cyril e Greek: kurillos < kurios "lord" and "master" + dim. suffix -illos, a name borne by two saints. 17th C. Ru: Kirill, Fr: Cyrille. Fem: Cyrilla.

Cyrus c? A powerful Persian king of the sixth century BCE, whose name appears in the Bible, as well as in Greek histories. Cyrus is the Greek form of the name, almost certainly formed to reflect Gr: kuros "supreme power." The Old Persian form was Khrus, the meaning of which is uncertain. Plausible possibilities include "of the throne" "the sun," "like the sun," "young," and "hero." 16th C. Dim: Cy. Fem: Cyra, Kyra; KIRA (mod).

Cytaea, Cytaeis Y Epithets of Medea. They derive from the town of Cytae in Colchis-her legendary birthplace. L: Cytaeus "a Cytaean"; Cytaeis "Cytaean woman"-i.e. Medea.

Cytherea Y Epithet of Aphrodite, taken from the name of the island Cythera, which was sacred to her. The variant Cytharea was used by the seventeenth-century poetess Anne Finch. Early 20th C.

Dacala Y c~ Achumawi: dacala "cougar."

Daciana Y Romanian name. Feminine form of Latin Dacianus "of Dacia," the name of the Roman province which forms much of modern Romania. Borne by an obscure early saint revered in the Orthodox Church.

Daffodil Y So symbolic of the spring, few sights are more heartwarming after a long winter than a swathe of cheerful yellow daffodils bobbing their heads in the spring sunshine-such an evocative and inspirational sight that it inspired one of the most famous poems about flowers of all time, William Wordsworth's "Daffodils" (1804). In the language of flowers, the daffodil symbolizes both respect and unrequited love-but it can also stand for deceit-probably because for all its cheery charm, the daffodil is poisonous.'The national flower of Wales, it is worn proudly on St. David's Day (March 1)-along with leeks-across Wales. To Pagans, it is the quintessential flower of the Equinox period, and has become associated with the Goddess Eostre. Late 19th C. Dim: Daff, Daffy, Dilly.

Dafina y Swahili: dafina "treasure," "windfall," and "unexpected present."

Dag c~ Scandinavian name. ON: Dagr "day."

Dagan cc A Mesopotamian God of agriculture, cognate with Dagon, who was worshipped in the Levant.'The meaning is not entirely clear; an early Phoenician writer said Dagon meant "grain," and it certainly seems the case that the root dgn carried the meaning "grain" in some Semitic languages. More than one Mesopotamian king was called Ishme-Dagan "Dagan has heard" in Akkadian, the earliest, Ishme-Dagan of Isin, ruling in the early second millennium BCE. Although entirely unrelated, ON: dagan means "dawn" and "daybreak."

Dagda An Irish God, whose name means "the good God." Often referred to as "the Dagda," Dagda features fairly prominently in Irish myth, where he is portrayed as High King of the Tuatha De Danann. He is the father of Aengus by the Goddess Boann. He may be connected with DEWI.

Dagmar 2 Scandinavian name. ON: dagr "day" + mcer "girl" or "maiden." In the early fourteenth-century Icelandic saga Halfdanar saga Eysteinssonar, which is believed to chronicle events of the ninth century, a man called trandr is married to a woman called Dagmoer. Dagmar was also the name given to Margaret of Bohemia (c. 1186-1213), when she became the wife of Valdemar II of Denmark. The name was borne by two nineteenth-/twentieth-century Danish princesses, and the full name of Queen Victoria's daughter Louise, Duchess of Fife (1867-1931) was Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar. The name's use in the ESW largely post-dates her birth.

Dagobert c~ Old Germanic name composed of the Middle Low German dag "day" + berht. It was the name of three early Frankish kings as well as one or two other early medieval figures. Revived 19th C.

Dagonet (' Sir Dagonet in Arthurian Romance is, to all intents and purposes, the court jester. The etymology of Dagonet is unknown-though it may have its roots in a Welsh name. 19th C.

Dahlia 2 The name of the popular flamboyant garden flower, native to Mexico. It was given its name in the late eighteenth century in honor of the Swedish botanist Anders Dahl (1751-89). Dahl is cognate with the English DALE. In the language of flowers, dahlias signify "good taste." Late 19th C.

Dai e Dai is principally a pet-form of Dafydd, the Welsh form of DAVID, and this may be all it is; it is unclear whether the name was in use independently in the Middle Ages or not. It certainly wasn't borne by a significant historical figure. Its similarity to the Irish DAIGH has led to the speculation that it is the Welsh cognate. It may be-but the evidence is lacking. It may also be a variant of DEWI. Used independently since the late nineteenth century.

Daigh (' Old Irish name-daigh "fire." In modern usage, the word can also mean "pain," "hope," "plunder," and "slaughter." Borne by an early Irish saint.

Daiki f Japanese name-dai "large," "great," and "mighty" + ki "brilliance" or ki "tree" or ki "noble," "exalted," "precious," and "valuable."

Daina ? Lithuanian name-daina "song."

Daisuke e Japanese name-dai "large," "great," and "mighty" + suke "support" and "help."

Daisy 2 The humble little daisy, treated as a weed by those who desire bowling-green lawns, is one of the most valuable herbs, making a particularly effective cream for minor cuts and bruises (one of its country names is bruise-wort). Long turned into daisy chains by children, or patiently plucked of its petals one by one as a means of divination in matters of the heart, the daisy symbolizes innocence, purity, faith, love, and simplicity. OE: dcejes eaje "day's eye," referring to the fact the daisy closes its petals at night. Daisy as a given name was first used as a pet-form of Margaret. This was because in the seventeenth century, Marguerite-the French form of Margaret-was bestowed upon the plant. 19th C. Bearers: Daisy Duke, a character in the American television series The Dukes of Hazzard (1979-85); Daisy Miller (1878), a novella by Henry James.

Dalan ? Druid of Irish myth, who features in the eighth or ninth-century Wooing of Etain. The etymology isn't all that clear; it may be an Irish form of DYLAN.

Dale c~ 2 English surname, deriving from OE: dale "dale" and "valley." 17th C.

Dalia Y Lithuanian Goddess of fate. Lith: dalia "fate" and "luck" < dalis "Part," "portion," and "share."

Dallas a Y English surname. OE: dial "dale" + hus "dwelling." Borne by an American vice-president in the mid-nineteenth century-George Mifflin Dallas (1792-1864)-it may have been bestowed in America in his honor. In the twentieth century, Dallas has become most associated with the Texan city, which has probably been the source of the given name in more recent years; use did increase in the wake of the American soap opera Dallas (1978-91).

Dalton English surname, deriving from one of the places called Dalton in England. OE: *dele* "valley" and "hollow" + *tun*. 18th C.

Damaris Y Probably a variant spelling of Gr: *damalis* "heifer"-which was also used to mean "girl"-possibly influenced by *damar* "wife." Both derive from *damazd* "to tame." It features in the New Testament. 16th C. Bearers: Damaris Masham (1659-1708), an English philosopher.

Damh a Irish Gaelic: *damp* "stag" or "ox"; *damh*, meanwhile, means "learned man" in Scots Gaelic. *Damh the Bard* is the stage-name of Pagan British singer-songwriter David Smith (b. 1965).

Damian a English form of Latin *Damianus* < Greek *Damianos*-*damazo* "to tame" or *damos* "folk" + suffix *-ian-*. St. Damian is usually linked with St. Cosmas-with whom he was allegedly martyred in the late third century-and *Damian* has been in use since the thirteenth century. Var: *Damien*. Get, Pol, Rom: *Damian*, It: *Damiano*, Fr: *Damien*, Ru: *Demyan*. Bearers: *Damien Thorn*, the central character in David Seltzer's *The Omen* (1976).

Damkina 2 The Akkadian Mother Goddess. Her name derives from that of the Sumerian Mother Goddess *Damgalnuna*-Sumerian: *dam* "spouse" + *gal* "great" + *nun* "prince" + a "water." She is the consort of *Enlil*.

Damla Y Turkish name-*damla* "drop." It can refer to any sort of drop; implicit in the name is "raindrop," but it is also used in expressions such as *burun damlasz* "nose drops." Another use is to mean "drop-shaped"-i.e. "pear-shaped."

Damodar c~ A name of Krishna. Probably San: *dama* "selfcommand" + *uddra* "noble," "exalted," "generous," and "liberal." It is also the name of a river in India.

Damon e Ancient Greek name. It was borne by a young man of the fourth century BCE, celebrated with his friend *Pythias* as a model of devoted friendship. When *Pythias* was sentenced to death for supposedly plotting against *Dionysius I*, ruler of Syracuse, *Damon* agreed to take his place so that *Pythias* could go home and put his affairs in order. When *Pythias* was delayed, *Damon* was nearly executed in his stead, but *Pythias* got back just

in time.'This so impressed Dionysius that both were spared.'The name also belonged to one of the Telchines (see Telchis), and appears in Virgil's Eclogues as the name of a shepherd. Gr: damazo "to tame." 16th C. Bearers: Damon Knight (1922-2002), the American science-fiction writer; Damon Hill (b. 1960), the former Formula 1 racing driver; Damon Salvatore, a principal character in L.J. Smith's The Vampire Diaries (1991-).

Damsel 2 Originally, a term used of an unmarried woman, particularly of noble or gentle birth. Much associated with the chivalric romances of the Middle Ages, it has been confined to the realm of literature and poetry for many moons. OF: dameisele < Late L: dominicella "little mistress" < L: domina: "mistress" and "lady." Var: Damosel, Damozel.

Damson c~ Y A type of plum, taken to Britain by Crusaders in the Middle Ages. ME: damascene < Late L: Prunum Damascenes-"plum of Damascus."The English surname has a different origin-OF: dame "lady," "dame" + son. 17th C.

Dan cc Usually treated as a short form of DANIEL, Dan is also an independent biblical name. Heb: dan "judge." It was borne by one of the sons of Jacob, and has been used since the sixteenth century. Dan is also a rare Doric form of ZEUS. In Serbo-Croatian, dan means "day."

Dana 2 c~ As a male name, Dana is an American adoption of the surname-a variant of DANE-largely in honor of the American poet Richard Henry Dana, Sr. (1787-1879) and his son, politician and author Richard Henry Dana Jr. (1815-82). As a female name it arose as a pet-form of DANIELLA in the nineteenth century. It Ga: ddna means "bold" and "brazen." "Ibis was adopted as the stage name of Irish singer-turned-politician Rosemary Brown Scallon (b. 1951), popularizing its image as an Irish name, but its use as such is modern and largely due to her celebrity. Bearers: Dana Scully, a principal character in the American television series The X Files (1993-2002).

Danae Y In Greek mythology, Danae is the mother of the hero Perseus, inseminated by Zeus in a shower of gold. Her name is the feminine of Danaus, the legendary founder of the Danaans, which was treated as one of

the poetic terms for the Greeks in ancient times. The origin is very uncertain and quite probably pre-Greek. Although Danae and Danaos are unconnected in myth, their function may be the same; Perseus went on to be the founder of Mycenae, while Danaos founded Argos-these were probably the two most powerful cities of Bronze Age Greece. "Argives," deriving from Argos, was yet another generic term for "Greeks" in ancient times. 19th C.

Dandelion Y d Dandelions, like daisies, are treated as weeds by most people today. This is an appalling indication of the divorced attitude of most of society from the natural world, as dandelions are one of the most valuable of herbs. The leaves, roots, buds, and flowers are all edible; roasted dandelion root makes a good, wholesome coffee substitute, while a syrup made from the flowers is delicious. Ruled by Jupiter and Air, it has also long been prized for its cleansing, diuretic properties; dandelion tea is often drunk as a tonic for the liver and used for urinary tract problems. Dandelion is also said to promote psychic awareness. Magically, Dandelion is a plant of divination. It is called the "rustic oracle," and the old tradition of "dandelion clocks"-the number of blows it takes to get rid of all the seeds to tell the time-is well known. An alternative method is to blow three times and the time is told by the number of the seeds remaining. The dandelion symbolizes that wishes can come true, as well as happiness and faithfulness. OF: dent de lion "lion's tooth"-a reference to the shape of the leaves. Late 20th C.

Dane cc In part, Dane is an English surname, from OE: denu "valley" and thus cognate with DEAN. Dane's use as a given name in more recent years, however, is almost certainly with reference to the word "Dane"-not so much with the modern inhabitants of Denmark in mind as their Viking forebears. A further use of Dane is the River Dane in Cheshire and the Dane Hills in Leicestershire, which are both likely to derive from DON. 17th C. Bearers: Dane Rudhyar (1895-1985), whose birth name was Daniel Chenneviere, the French astrologer, author and composer.

Danette Y 20th C coinage-DAN + the feminine dim. suffix -ette.

Danica Y Serbo-Croatian: Zvezda Danica "day star" or "star of the day" is the name of the morning star, and is often simply called Danica. It is used

as a name in much of Eastern Europe, and was first used in the ESW in the late 19th C.

Daniel c~ Biblical name. Heb: "(a) God has judged" or "(a) God is my judge." 12th C. Traditionally used to render Domhnall in Ireland. Dim: DAN, DANNY. Cz, Fr, Get, Pol, Port, Scand: Daniel, Hun: Daniel, It: Daniele, Ru: Daniil, Sp: Danilo, Fin: Taneli. Bearers: Daniel Defoe (c. 1659- 1731), the English writer; Daniel Day Lewis (b. 1957), the Anglo-Irish actor; Daniel Radcliffe (b. 1989), the English actor; Daniel Andrew (fl. 1692), a man accused of Witchcraft during the Salem Witch Trials, but who managed to evade arrest; Daniel-a Witch-one of the main characters in the American film *IMarrieda Witch* (1942).

Daniella, Danielle Y Feminine forms of DANIEL. 19th C. Dim: Dani, Danni, Dannie, Dannii, DANNY and ELLA. Cz, It, Pol, Rom: Daniela, Fr: Daniele, Cz: Danika, Danka (dim).

Danius c~ A legendary king of Britain, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth in his twelfth-century *Historia Regum Britanniae*. Probably a Latinized form of W: Daned. The etymology of this is very obscure, but one possibility is MW: dynat "nettle." Alternatively, it may be connected with DANUVIUS.

Danna Y A small island in the Western Isles of Scotland. It is believed to be of Old Norse origin, but exactly what is unclear. The -a may represent ey "island." It is tempting to suggest that the Dan- is simply DANE, but this is probably a coincidence.

Danny g 2 Pet-form of DANIEL and sometimes DANIELLA. Used independently since at least the nineteenth century. Danny Boy is one of the best known "traditional" Irish ballads the lyrics of which were published in 1913. The writer was actually an Englishman.

Dante c~ Shortened form of Durante, the Italian form of DURAND. It is famous as the name of the medieval poet Dante Alighieri (c. 1265-1321), and has been used in his honor in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-82), the Pre-Raphaelite artist.

Danu Y An Irish Goddess, also known as ANU, who is considered a Mother Goddess and almost certainly one and the same with the Welsh DON. She gives her name to the Tuatha De Danann.

Danuvius cc Celtic God. Inscriptions bearing his name have been found in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Croatia. It is also the name of the River Danube in Roman times. It is almost certainly cognate with DON and DANU.

Daphne Y Greek: daphne "laurel." Daphne was a nymph loved by Apollo, who was turned into a bay laurel to avoid his advances. Dafne (1597) by Jacopo Peri is one of the earliest operas. 17th C. Bearers: Daphne du Maurier (1907-89), the British novelist; Daphne Manners, a character in Paul Scott's *The Jewel in the Crown* (1966); Daphne Moon, a character in the American television sitcom *Frasier* (1993-2004).

Dara e Y A name with a mish-mash of origins and meanings. Principally it is Irish. Mac Dara-also written Macdara and sometimes Anglicized as Darragh-is the name of a Connemara saint of obscure and, as likely as not, Pagan origins. His name is a combination of It Ga: mac "son" and dair "oak," probably making it cognate with Daire (see Adair). There is also a very minor biblical figure, called Dara in some translations and Darda in others. Some identify him with DARDANUS, but this is unlikely. More likely is a connection with Akkadian: darn "eternity" and "lifetime"; Mod Heb: darah still means "to live" and "to dwell." Another option is Heb: dar "mother of pearl." Dara is a girl's name in Cambodia-Khmer: daaraa "star." It also occurs as a girl's name in the ESW from the nineteenth century, but this is probably simply a variant of DORA. The word dara carries meanings in other languages too, such as "sleet" and "breeze" in Hungarian, "maiden" in Malay and Indonesian, and "fine," "fair," and "good" in Yoruba.

Daran cc Nigerian name. Daran Tuwo is given to a woman's first-born late in life. Hausa: dare "night" + tuwo-the name given to a staple food made from flour and served with soup or gravy. The expression daran bushiya is used of a sleepless night-of whatever cause.

Daranya Y A word which in Hausa denotes heavy clouds in the North East during the wet season, very early in the morning, which disperse after

sunrise, with no rain falling. It derives from dare "night." It is also used of a horn sounded to mark the start of a curfew.

Darby c~ English surname, from Derby in England. ON: djur "deer" + by "village" or "farmstead." 17th C. In Ireland, it used to be used to render Dermot. "Darby and Joan" is an expression dating to the eighteenth century referring to a couple who have been happily married all their lives. Var: Derby.

Darcy Y English surname, deriving from Arcy in La Manche-the origin of which is not at all clear. The medieval form was Adreci. In Ireland, Darcy was adopted as an Anglicized form of the Irish surname O Dorchaidhe "descendant of Dorchaidh," a byname from Jr Ga: dorch "dark." It has been used for boys since the seventeenth century, and increasingly for girls since the late nineteenth-century. Var: d'Arcy c ; Darcie, Darcey Y. Bearers: (Fitzwilliam) Darcy-the hero of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813); Darcey Bussell (b. 1969), the British ballerina.

Dardanus cc The eponymous founder of the city of Dardania on the Hellespont. Dardania later gave its name to the region thereabouts-the Dardanelles. Like so many "founders," the city is likely in reality to have come first, and the hero afterwards; Dardanus is said to have been a son of Zeus and Electra. The etymology is very cloudy and quite probably non-Greek. Attempts to derive from Gr: dardapt& "to devour" are unconvincing. 19th C.

Daria 2 Feminine form of DARIUS, the name of a third-century saint. The story surrounding her is fanciful to say the least-she was allegedly a Vestal Virgin, but also supposedly married to St. Chrysanthus. The name has long been used in Iran and Slavic countries-in the latter it has been much muddled with DOROTHY-but is not encountered in the ESW before the eighteenth century. Var: Darya, Dariya.

Darina 2 Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic Dairine. This may be from the Jr Ga: ddir "to rut" or "to copulate"; unsurprisingly, most tone this down to "fruitful." Alternatively, it may be a variant of DOIREANN. It was borne in Irish legend by a daughter of Tuathal Techtmar, a legendary king of Ireland, who may have lived in the first or second century CE. Not to be confused

with the Dairine-a name given to the semi-legendary rulers of Munster before the seventh century CE. 19th C. Var: Dairine. Bearers: Dairine is a character in Diane Duane's Young Wizards series (1983-90).

Darius c~ The name of three famous Persian kings, the most famous of all being Darius I the Great (550-486 BCE), the father of Xerxes, whose empire spread from Persia across Mesopotamia to Egypt and Asia Minor. Darius is the Latin form of Greek Dareios, the Hellenized version of the actual Old Persian name: Darayavahush < daraya "to hold" and "to possess" + vahu "good." Modern Persian: Dariush. Late 16th C. Bearers: Darius Milhaud (1892-1974), the French composer; Darius is an immortal in the American television series Highlander (1992-98).

Dark e Y Old English: deorc "dark"-a peculiar word, with little connection to the other Germanic languages. In essence, meaning "absence of light," the dark is a much misunderstood and abused thing. For many, it is a place of mystery and fear, associated with "dark" things and "dark" places: the night, dripping caves, deep mines beneath the ground-and the grave. Dark as the opposite of light is also synonymous with the Judeo-Christian notion of "evil"; more than one writer has used the name the "Dark Lord" for a powerful, evil sorcerer, along with "dark wizard" and "dark arts." Most Pagans, however, see the dark quite differently; it is still the opposite of light-but neither is intrinsically "good" or "evil." Instead dark is light's essential counterpoint, as demonstrated in the Taijitu symbol of Taoism. The surname derives from the same source as the noun, being originally bestowed upon someone whose looks or temperament were "dark." 19th C.

Darklis 2 Romani name of uncertain etymology. It may be a corruption of DORCAS, or derived from the English DARK + suffix -less-i.e. "free from darkness." As a word, darkless is not attested before 1888, however, and examples of Darklis predate it-but among them is the variant Darkless. Early 19th C. Var: Darklas, Darkles.

Darlene 2 A name coined in North America at the end of the nineteenth century, which is essentially a reworking of DARLING using the suffix - (/)ene. Var: Darleen.

Darling Y c? Darling comes directly from OE: deorling or dierling "darling." It was used as a personal name in the Middle Ages as well as a term of endearment, and the surname Darling derives from both. It returned again in the seventeenth century, mostly as an adoption of the surname, but its use for girls again from the eighteenth century is suggestive of the re-adoption of the noun.

Darnel (' Y A type of common grass, considered a weed by most. Walloon: darnelle "darnel."The plant is poisonous; it is also a hallucinogen, and may have deliberately been used as such in the past. Bearded darnel may have featured in the famous "flying ointment" of medieval Witches. Ruled by Saturn, it was sometimes used medicinally in the treatment of gangrene and leprosy and "other such like fretting and eating cankers, and putrid sores."The surname Darnel or Darnell may derive in part from the plant-although it was likely given as a nickname for someone who demonstrated characteristics associated with it (namely drunkenness and turning up where not wanted, etc.) rather than for someone who actually grew it deliberately. There is no evidence that the plant was cultivated in any way whatsoever. The surname also comes from Darnall in Yorkshire-OE: derne or dierne "hidden" and "overgrown with vegetation" + halh "nook" or "corner," a word often used of land in a hollow or bend in a river. 17th C. Var: Darnell. Lord Darnell features (as the villain) in some versions of the English folk-song "Marty Groves."

Daron e Y A Welsh river on the Llyn Peninsula. CC: *daru- "oak"-it may well be a survival of the name of a Celtic God or Goddess-*Daron or *Daronus are likely reconstructions-and it may be the DARONWY of the Welsh Triads. The location of the River Daron is notable; it flows into Cardigan Bay at the tip of the peninsula and Bardsey island lies off-shore, which has links with both King Arthur and Merlin, while the Llyn is littered with other ancient sacred sites and allusions to the Pagan past. Cognate river names-the DART in Devon and the DARWEN in Lancashire-flow through similar ancient landscapes. Another is the DURANCE in France. By and large, however, Daron is treated simply as a variant spelling of DARREN.

Daronwy c3' 2 A name occurring in the Welsh Triads, where Daronwy is curiously described as one of the "Three Oppressions of Ynys Mon (Anglesey)." It is a combination of DARON with the Welsh suffix -wy, which, intriguingly, is strongly associated with rivers. It has been used from the early twentieth century.

Darran 6 The name of a valley in South Wales, used as a given name since the mid-twentieth century-generally as a variant of DARREN. W: ddr "oal" + rhan "part."

Darrell cc Y English surname, from Airelle in Calvados, Normandy. Earlier forms were Arel and Ayrel. It may possibly be a diminutive of L: ara "altar" or area "ground," "building spot," etc., which was a word used to denote the space around a house, an open space for games, a threshing floor or even a burying ground. 17th C. Var: Daryl, Darryl, Darrel. Bearers: Daryl Hannah (b. 1960), the American actress; Darrell Rivers, the principal character in Enid Blyton's Malory Towers series (1946-51).

Darren c~ A rare English surname, which evolved in the North West, almost certainly from DARWEN. However, to what extent this name is the source of the given name is debatable, and it is likely that Darren came into being as a late nineteenth-century American coinage-probably a blend of DARRELL and WARREN. Var: Darin, Darrin, Derren. Dim: Daz. Bearers: Derren Brown (b. 1971), a British "psychological illusionist" and writer; Darrin Stephens, the husband of Samantha in the American sitcom Bewitched (1964-72).

Dart e Dart is a surname, a river, and a noun. The river derives from CC: *daru- "oak," making it cognate with the DARON and DARWEN. The noun is OE: dart "a dart"-a word used of any sharp missile thrown by hand, although in terms of symbolic meaning, it can be considered synonymous with Arrow. The surname is a bit of both. 18th C.

Darunee 2 Thai name-darun "teenager," "juvenile"; "youthful."

Darwen e Y The name of a river in Lancashire, the Darwen flows close to Samlesbury, famous for the Samlesbury Witch Trials of 1612. CC: *daru "oal" + *windo- "white."The river gave its name to a town, and the town to

a surname. This is one source of Darwin, the other being the Old English personal name Deorwine < deor "dear," "beloved" + wine "friend." 19th C.

Datura 2 Botanical name for various thorn-apples, including jimsonweed and moonflower. They are members of the same family as deadly nightshade, mandrake, and henbane-all classic Witchy herbs. Like them, datura is highly poisonous and a potent narcotic. It is still used magically for protection and to break curses, and may also help cure insomnia-but by placing it in shoes, not ingesting it. Hindi: dhatura "thorn-apple."

David e Biblical name of Hebrew origin. 'Me meaning isn't all that clear, but seems mostly likely to derive from a root meaning "beloved," although, interestingly enough, the Hebrew letters which make up the name David are exactly the same ones used for "mandrake." 12th C. St. David is the famous leek- and daffodil-wielding patron saint of Wales but his real name was actually DEWI. Dim: Dawe (hist); Dave, Davey, Davie, DAVY. W: Dafydd; DAI (dim), It Ga: Daibhead, Daithi, Sc Ga: Daibheid, Daibhidh, Cornish: Daveth, Cz, Fr, Get, Port, Rom, Ru, Serb, Sp: David, Hun: David, Lith: Davidas, It: Davide, Lat: Davids, Pol: Dawid, Arabic: Da'wud, Haw: Kawika, Maori: Rawiri, Fin: Taavetti, Taavi (dim). Bearers: two medieval Scottish kings (d. 1153 and 1371); David Copperfield, the eponymous hero of Dickens's 1850 novel, and the stage-name of American illusionist David Kotkin (b. 1956); David Lloyd George, 1st Earl Lloyd-George, (1863-1945) and David Cameron (b. 1966), both British Prime Ministers; David Eddings (1931- 2009), the American novelist; David Bowie (b. 1947), the British singer-songwriter.

Davina 2 Davina is now the most widely known feminine form of DAVID, a contraction of the eighteenth-century Davidina. Var: Davida. Dim: Vina. Bearers: Davina McCall (b. 1967), a British actress and television presenter; Miss Davina Bat is a Witch and schoolmistress in Jill Murphy's Worst Witch series (1974-2007).

Davis e English surname, deriving from DAVID. 17th C. Var: Davies.

Davy e Davy is now treated as a pet-form of DAVID, and has been for centuries. However, Davy has been in use since the thirteenth century as a vernacular form of David, and the surnames deriving from it probably

come from both. Var: Davie, Davey. Bearers: David "Davy" Crockett (1786-1836), the American folk-hero known as the "King of the Wild Frontier"; "Davy Jones's Locker" is an old euphemism for the bottom of the sea, specifically as the grave of all those drowned at sea. Davy Jones himself is an ambiguous figure, regarded as the spirit of the sea by some-only a step away from a sea God-and as a malignant sea-devil by others. He is first mentioned in Tobias Smollett's *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle* (1751), and featured recently as a character in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* (2003-) film series.

Dawa c~ Y Tibetan name-zla ba "moon" and "Monday."

Dawn Y Times of transition always seem to hold a certain power and mystery; moments when the veils between worlds are at their thinnest, be it turning points in the year-notably Beltane, Midsummer, Samhain, and the Winter Solstice-or, each day, at dawn and dusk. In many religious traditions across the world, the Dawn is revered as a Goddess-the guardian of the morning, presiding over the closure of the night and its terrors, and herald of the new day. Dawn is synonymous with beginnings, of birth, rebirth, and resurrection. Even the least spiritual person who has witnessed the dawn break, experienced the tinge of its special magic, and breathed deep of its invigorating new air will be able to understand why. The English word "dawn" is surprisingly young, appearing at the end of the sixteenth century. It derived from the older dawning or Jawing < Jaw "to dawn," and ultimately comes from the same root as DAY. The rare surname Dawn evolved as a variant of Dawe-either the medieval pet-form of DAVID, or an adoption of the name of the bird now usually called a jackdaw. When first used in the nineteenth century, it was for boys, being taken up for girls at the end of the century-a classic example of a name where its use is first related to a surname and then to a noun. Bearers: Dawn Powell (1896-1965), the American writer; Dawn Paris (1918-1993), the real name of American actress Anne Shirley; Dawn French (b. 1957), the British comedienne; Dawn Summers, a character in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003). In Charles Perrault's original version of "The Sleeping Beauty" (1697)-in which we get a glimpse into the happy-ever-after-we learn that Sleeping Beauty names her daughter Dawn (L;Aurore), and her son Day (Le Jour).

Dawson f English surname-"son of Dawe"; Dawe was a medieval pet-form of DAVID. Although the name is unrelated, Jaw was also an old name for the Jackdaw; OR *dawe. 17th C. Dawson's profile was raised recently by the the American television series Dawson's Creek (1998-2003)-the main character of which was called Dawson Leary.

Day Y ' How to sum up, in just a paragraph or so, the significance of "day" across the world's cultures? The word is so casually tossed about, that the sheer wonder that lies behind it is often forgotten in our day-to-day lives. Without day-the period when the sun shines upon us-there would be little or no life. Day, as the antithesis to Night, with all the symbolism of duality that that engenders, is so deeply ingrained in our thinking that it is almost superfluous to mention, and yet its influence has probably shaped much of world philosophy and religion, from the Chinese yin and yang to the Christian obsession with "good" versus "evil."The word derives from a root meaning "to burn." Day (Le Jour) was the name of the brother of Dawn in Perrault's original "The Sleeping Beauty" (1697), and it is found as a given name from the same period-though almost certainly representing an adoption of the surname.'This has a much more prosaic origin, deriving from OE: dcege "(female) doughkneeder.'The word "day" also features in the names of the days of the week. Somewhat surprisingly, these have survived from pre-Christian times still bearing the names of Pagan Gods and Goddesses. They date to the second century CE, when the Romans first named the days after the visible planets, the sun, and the moon, and the Anglo-Saxons translated the Roman names at some point in the early Anglo-Saxon period.

Dayang Y Malaysian name. Malay: dayang "lady-in-waiting," "handmaiden," "maid of honor."

Dayaram c? A name of Rama. San: Jaya "compassion" + RAMA.

Daydream Y Of daydreams, W. H. Auden once said, "A daydream is a meal at which images are eaten. Some of us are gourmets, some gourmands, and a good many take their images precooked out of a can and swallow them down whole, absent-mindedly and with little relish." His words capture rather well the love-hate relationship the world has with daydreams-and daydreamers.'They are seen by some as a waste of time, the occupation of

the lazy-by others they are praised as the past-time of great thinkers, and a valuable and fertile source of inspiration and ideas. Most Pagans, I suspect, empathize very much with the latter view. Indeed, in Paganism, daydreaming is often taken to another level to visualization and guided meditation, invoking the power of the imagination to shape and strengthen our "waking" lives-and help to make us more alert and "in the moment."

Dayspring 2 A poetic word for "dawn." Late 20th C.

Dazzle ? ci The verb "dazzle" evolved in the late fifteenth century from "daze," and the noun came along in the seventeenth century. Early 20th C.

Dea Y cc Much of Dea's use as a given name since the eighteenth century has been as an adoption of the surname, which in England may be a variant of DEE, but in Ireland is for O'Dea. In Irish this is O Deaghaidh "descendant of Deaghadh"; Deaghadh-Ir Ga: deagh "good" + adh "happiness" or "luck." Dea also means "Goddess" in Latin.

Dean c~ Old English: denu "valley"-used in particular of a long, narrow valley. Dean and Dene still survive in some local names in England, such as Chellow Dene in Yorkshire. It is one source of the surname Dean, the other being ME: deen "a dean" < L: decanus < decem "ten." Originally, this was applied to anyone in charge of ten subordinates in any field. In the Middle Ages, it became an ecclesiastical title, starting in monasteries as the title of a monk who presided over ten others. Since the early modern period, it has also been used in secular settings, such as universities. Bearers: Dean Acheson (1893-1971), the American statesman.

Deborah y Hebrew: deborah "bee"-the name of a biblical character. 16th C. Dim: Deb, Debs, Debbie, Debbi, Debby, Debi. Var: Debora, Debra. It: Debora, Port, Sp: Debora, Mod Heb: Devorah, Dvorah. Bearers: Deborah Milton (1652-1727), the youngest daughter of the poet John Milton; Deborah Freeman-Mitford, Duchess of Devonshire (b. 1920), one of the Mitford Sisters; Deborah Lipp (b. 1961); the American Wiccan author; Miss Deborah Jenkyns, a character in Elizabeth Gaskell's Cranford (1851); Deborah Lee, later Lady Slane, the main character in Vita Sackville West's All Passion Spent (1931); Deborah Mayfair, the ancestress of the Mayfair Witches in Anne Rice's Mayfair Witches series (1990-94).

Dechtire Y The mother of Cu Chulainn. She may represent a Triple Goddess, as elements of her tale reflect aspects of the Maiden, Mother, and Crone. A sister of Conchobhar mac Nessa, she was impregnated by Lugh when an insect jumped from her wine goblet into her mouth. In some versions, she then vomited up Cu Chulainn, rather than giving birth to him. Dechtire is a partial Anglicization of Irish Gaelic Deichtire or Deichtine. 01: dech "daughter" + tine "fire" or tir "land." Var: Dechtere.

Decimus c~ Meaning "tenth" in Latin, Decimus was one of the few Roman praenomina in use during the Roman Republic and Empire. Originally it was bestowed on a tenth child, specifically, a tenth son, but by the first century BCE it was being used without reference to number, especially by the gens Junia. It was taken up again in the sixteenth century, seeing most use in the Victorian period when large families were common and inspiration for names had started to dry up by the time the tenth child came along. Bearers: Maximus Decimus Meridius, the hero of American film *Gladiator* (2000). Fem: Decima.

Declan e Anglicized form of Irish Gaelic Declan or Deaglan, the name of a late fifth-century Irish saint. Probably 01: deagh "good" + ldn "full"-i.e. "full of goodness." Revived 19th C. Bearers: Declan MacManus (b. 1954), the real name of the musician Elvis Costello.

Decuman cc A Somerset saint, whose story smacks of Celtic Paganism. Not only did this chap have his head lopped off, he even picked it up and gave it a quick wash in a stream before reattaching it. His church is almost certainly built on a pre-Christian site, and a spring is still associated with him. His name is also found in Llanddegyman in Wales and Digibma in Cornwall. It may derive from L: decumanus "of the tenth part," a word usually used of tithes, and could mean "tithe-gatherer." It is probable, however, that this resemblance is a coincidence, and that the name is really Celtic; a possibility being CC: *dekos "honor" + *man yo "thinl" and "remember."

Dee cc Y Dee's use as a given name derives from two principal sources. Firstly, it is an adoption of the surname Dee-W: ddu "black"-with use as a given name going back to the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, Dee also began to be used as a short form for names beginning with the

letter "d." Its use may also have been influenced by the River Dee, which runs along the Welsh-English border and through the ancient city of Chester. In Roman times, its name was DEVA. Var: DEA, Dee-Dee.

Deer Y cc' The word "deer" is believed to go back to a PIE root meaning "to breathe." It was originally used of any wild animal-indeed, it could be considered the Germanic equivalent of "animal," which has a parallel derivation in coming from Latin: anima "breath." Deer feature prominently as symbolic and totem creatures, usually as a hind, stag, or roe. Deer in general have often been regarded as guardians to other worlds, such as in Ted Hughes's poem "Roe-Deer," in which the deer "happened into my dimension/the moment I had arrived there." In C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, it is while hunting a deer that the Pevensie children return to our world from Narnia. The surname Deer is largely responsible for what use Deer has seen as a given name in the past. OE: Deora (a male personal name) < dear "bold" and "brave" or deore "dear" and "beloved."

Deianira Y In Greek mythology, Deianira is the wife of Heracles. Her most exciting moment was when she was almost ravaged by the centaur carrying her across the river. Heracles shot him with one of his poisoned arrows for his presumption. Unfortunately, with his dying breath, the centaur told Deianira that if she smeared his blood and semen on Heracles's clothing, it would win Heracles's love back if he later strayed. Heracles had almost as many mistresses as his father Zeus, so Deianira took the centaur's advice, unaware that the blood was poisoned by her husband's arrow. Not long after, she used it-and was thus the cause of Heracles's death. Still, Heracles ought to have seen it coming; Deianira derives from Gr: deioo "to destroy" and aner "man"-(in this case) "husband." A character bearing such a name in a Greek myth is the ancient equivalent of an official health warning. 18th C. Var: Deianeira.

Deiniol ' Often treated as the Welsh form of Daniel, Deiniol's true origins are Celtic, and revealed by the Breton form Denoual-*dfnu- "gift" + *walo-"prince." The first element, however, may be the theonym which became the Irish DANU and Welsh DON. It was borne by a sixth-century saint venerated in both Wales and Brittany. Late 19th C.

Deirdre 2 The tale of Deirdre of the Sorrows is one of the saddest of all Irish myths. A Druid pronounced before her birth that her beauty would cause strife and sorrow in Ulster. King Conchobhar therefore decided to have her raised in seclusion and, when she was of age, to marry her. Inevitably, things didn't work out that way. Deirdre fell in love with Naoise, they eloped, and all turned out as the Druid had foretold. The etymology is very uncertain, and all sorts of etymologies are out there, most of them pretty fanciful. However, one intriguing option, usually ignored, is a relatively simple combination 01: deir "says" + draoi "(the) Druid," which sums up poor Deirdre's fate really rather adequately. Another plausible etymology is 01: *der- "daughter" + der "tear(drop)." Late 19th C. Var: Derdriu, Deirdriu, Deirdri, Dierdre. Yeats's play *Deirdre* (1907) and John Millington Synge's play *Deirdre of the Sorrows* (1910)-which was completed by Yeats after Synge's death-did much to popularize it.

Delaney 2 English surname, deriving from Aunay in Calvados, Normandy. In Roman times, Aunay was called Alnetum "alder grove" < L: alnus "alder tree." It occurs as a boys' name from the eighteenth century, and started to be used for girls in the late twentieth century.

Delbert cc Short form of Adelbert (see Albert), which developed in Holland in the late nineteenth century and has since been taken up in the ESW.

Delia Y Epithet of Artemis. Gr: Delios "of Delos," a reference to the island upon which-in some myths-she was said to have been born. Delos was certainly sacred to her and her brother Apollo, and was an extremely important cult centre in ancient times. Gr: delos "clear," "visible," and "conspicuous." It is difficult to say whether this is coincidental or the genuine source of the island's name. 17th C. Bearers: Delia Smith (b. 1941), the British cookery expert; Delia Deetz, a character in Tim Burton's *Beetlejuice* (1988). The Elizabethan poet Samuel Daniel used Delia as the addressee of his sonnets, entitled simply *Delia* (1592). The Romani girl's name Delaia or Deliya is probably a variant of Delia.

Delicia Y Delicia is older than most people give it credit for. It is an adoption of L: delicia "delight," "charm," "pleasure," and "voluptuousness," which was usually used by the Romans in the plural-deliciae--as a term of affection with the sense of "darling" and "sweetheart." Its use as a given

name dates to the seventeenth century, a relatively prominent early example being Delicia Roberts (b. 1634), the mother of English writer Robert Nelson. Another significant bearer was Delicia Vyner (b. 1813), the wife of German Field Marshall Leonhard von Blumenthal. The Murder of Delicia (1896) was a novel by Marie Corelli. Var: Delice (late 19th Q).

Delight Y Old French: delit < L: delecto "to delight." It was first used as a name in the seventeenth century-a rare example of a cheerful Puritan "virtue name." It didn't survive, however, and-apart from a couple of isolated examples-was not used again until the late twentieth century.

Delilah y Like Jael and Judith, Delilah is another empowered biblical woman who took it upon herself to destroy a man. The Bible praises Jael for murdering her guest by driving a tent-peg into his brain, and Judith for luring her victim to his death by promising him a night of unbridled pleasure before lopping off his head. But because Delilah had the audacity to cut the "good" Samson's hair, she has gone down as one of the most infamous women of history, and her name has become a byword for a duplicitous female. Heb: delzlah "delicate," "weak," and "thin." 17th C. Var: Dalilah, Delila.

Delima Y Malaysian name. Malay: delima "pomegranate."

Deliverance e Y Old French: delivrance < Late L: delibero < L: libero "to set free" and "to liberate." It was first used as a given name by the Puritans in the sixteenth century for both boys and girls, when the religious sense of "deliverance from evil" was probably uppermost in their minds. The original Latin, however, carried no such baggage.

Della Y Della arose in the nineteenth century as a short form of ADELAIDE and ADELA, and has been used independently since the nineteenth century. Some use may be with reference to Della Falls on Vancouver Island, Canada, which were named after the wife of the man who discovered them in 1899.

Delphine Y A French name, deriving from Latin Delphina "(female) dolphin." Its popularity in France is largely down to the French St. Delphine (1284-1358). Delphine and Delphina first appeared in the ESW in

the seventeenth century. Var: Delphinia-perhaps used with the delphinium in mind (see Larkspur)-the Latin plural of delphinium being delphinia. Port, Sp: Deffina.

Delroy A name in use since the latter half of the nineteenth century, when at first it was simply an adoption of the rare surname. The origins of this aren't clear, but it seems to be a variant of LEROY.

Delwyn c Y Welsh: del "pretty" + gwyn. Strictly speaking it is a male name, but it is sometimes found in use for girls outside Wales. Late 19th C. Fem: Delwen.

Delyth ? Welsh name, coined from del "pretty" combined with the -yth of Gwenyth (see Gwenydd). Early 20th C.

Demelza Y A hamlet in Cornwall. It was adopted by Winston Graham for the name of the heroine of the Poldark novels (1945-2002). Demelza's use as a genuine given name stems entirely from this. It is sometimes explained as meaning "Maeldaf's fort"-presumably treating Demelza as a contraction of Dinas Maeldaf. There is a small fort at Demelza of uncertain date (not to be confused with the important hill-fort close by-Castle-an-Dinas-which is linked to Gorlois, Duke of Cornwall, the first husband of King Arthur's mother Igraine). The name Maeldaf, however, is known only in Wales as an extremely obscure figure in the genealogies, with no known Cornish connection. Thus the whole "fort of Maeldaf" thing is a bit far-fetched, especially when there is a perfectly plausible-if rather more prosaic-alternative. Cornish: ty "house" + malsai "eel." Bearers: Demelza Robins is a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Demeter y The Greek fertility Goddess, who presides over all growing things, but particularly grain crops-her Roman counterpart is Ceres. She is the mother of Persephone, and together they were the central focus of the Eleusinian Mysteries. The second element of her name is straightforward Gr: meter "mother." The first is a little trickier. That it comes from the same source as the Doric dialect word da is fairly certain, but unfortunately da is rather murky. It was traditionally understood to be a Doric form of ge "earth," but it was only used in expressions such as da feu. usually translated as "alas, by Earth!" and ou dan! "no, by Earth!" It has been

sensibly suggested that in fact, da-or rather Da-is the vocative (the form of the noun used to address someone or something directly) of DAN, a variant form of Zan, itself the Doric of ZEN-i.e. ZEUS.'This doesn't necessarily mean that her name has the meaning of "Zeus mother"although that offers intriguing possibilities-but it is perfectly plausible that it derives from exactly the same source as Zeus, namely PIE: *deyw-o-, implying that originally she was perceived as a female counterpart of Zeus. Deo, one of her other names, supports this interpretation quite strongly. 20th C.

Demetrius c~ Latin form of Greek Demetrios "belonging to DEMETER." It was a common name in Antiquity, and made popular later, despite its Pagan connotations, because of St. Demetrius, who is especially venerated in the Orthodox Church. It, Sp: Demetrio, Port: Demetrio, Bul: Dimitar, Rom: Dimitrie, Dumitru, Mod Gr: Dimitris, Ru: Dmitriy, Dmitri, Dmitry, Ukr: Dmytro. Fem: Demetria; DEMI (dim).

Demi I Originally a short form of Demetria (see Demetrius), it has been made familiar by the actress Demi Moore (b.1962).20th C.

Deneb c~ ? The traditional name of Alpha Cygni, the brightest star in the constellation Cygnus. Ar: danab "tail."

Denise Y French feminine form of DENNIS. Both Denise and Denis are found as girls' names in the Middle Ages, along with the pet-form Dennet, although the usual feminine form of Dennis in that period was DIONYSIA. It was rare in the ESW after the Reformation, but it didn't vanish altogether, cropping up in vernacular forms such as Denes, Denice, Dennice, Dennise, and even Dunes, until the fashion for French names led to its return proper in the nineteenth century. Dim: Dennie, DENNY.

Deniz c' 2 Turkish name-deniz "sea," "ocean," and "waves."

Dennis e English form of DIONYSIUS, used since the twelfth century. Like the names of many other saints, it had a spell in the doldrums between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. Var: Denes, Denys (hist); Denis. Dim: Den, DENNY. Fr: Denis. Bearers: Dennis Wheatley (1897- 1977), the British novelist, notable for editing The Dennis Wheatley Library of the

Occult (1974-77), which included work by Aleister Crowley and Isaac Bonewits.

Denny a' Y A pet-form of DENNIS and DENISE, Denny is also a surname derived from Dennis. 17th C.

Denzil cc' The usual etymology given for Denzil is that it is an adoption of the surname Denzil, which developed from Denisel, a medieval pet-form of DENNIS. However, Denzil-and its variant spellings-is an extremely rare surname, and by 1800, there were far more people known in the preceding two centuries who bore Denzil as a first name than a second name. It is true that in the Cornish Holles family, a son was name Denzell in the sixteenth century because his mother was the heiress of a family of the name. However, given the numbers, it seems more likely that what most of these Denzils represent is not the adoption of the surname, but a survival of the original Denisel itself. Indeed, among the numerous spelling variations are examples where the middle vowel is still present, such as Danizell, Dennessell, Denesell, Denizell, and Denezel. Denizel even made it into the nineteenth century. The name is sometimes said to be Cornish, and while it has perhaps seen most use in Cornwall and the West Country, it is certainly not exclusive to that region. A healthy number of examples are found throughout England and Scotland across the centuries. Var: Denzel, Denzill. Bearers: Denzel Washington (b. 1954), the American actor.

Deo ? ' Another name for Demeter. Gr: Deo. It almost certainly derives from PIE: *deyw-o-. In Latin, deo is the dative or ablative singular-i.e. it means "for (a) God," "to (a) God," "by (a) God" or "from (a) God." Meanwhile, the Indian boy's name Deo derives either from San: dyo "sky" and "heaven," or is a variant of DEV. All forms, therefore, are etymologically related.

Deodatus a' Latin: deodatus "given by (a) God" < deus "(a) God" + datus "given" < do "to give." It was first used by Puritans in the sixteenth century. Fem: Deodata.

Deoine Y Epithet of Persephone meaning "belonging to DEO."

Derek c? Derek seems to have developed from Diederich and Dirck, the Dutch forms of THEODORIC. They found their way across the North Sea in the fifteenth century, establishing themselves in forms such as Dederick, Dyryke, and Deryk. By the sixteenth century, Derrick was the usual form. Var: Deterick, Derick, Dirick. Bearers: Derek Jarman (1942-94), the British writer and director; Derek Landy (b. 1973), the Irish author of the Skulduggery Pleasant novels (2007-); Derek "Del Boy" Trotter, one of the principal characters in the British sitcom Only Fools and Horses (1981-2003).

Derfael cc Old Welsh name-derw "oak"+ mael "prince." The legendary sixth-century Derfel has links with both King Arthur and the mystical island of Bardsey-is it just a coincidence that he bears a name so closely related to that of the River Daron so nearby on the mainland? He was said to be one of the knights who survived the Battle of Camlann, but later became a monk, and is now regarded in some quarters as a saint. Late 19th C. Var: Derfel, Derfyl.

Dermot Gc Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic Diarmuid. 01: di fharmaid-the negative prefix di- + farmad "envy," thus meaning "free from envy." In Irish mythology, it is the name of Grainne's lover and later husband, who died when hunting with Finn because Finn failed to treat his wound in time. Dermot was a common Irish name in the Middle Ages, and was one of the few to survive between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries when most native names vanished. It, too, suffered and was frequently rendered in English as Jeremy or Jeremiah, but it survived. It began to be revived in the nineteenth century. Var: Dermot, Diarmaid, Diarmait, Diarmid, Diarmuit. Dim: Derry.

Derry a 2 Derry is principally a short form of DERMOT, though sometimes it is used for DEREK. It is also the name of a town in Ulster. 01: dair "oak." The word "derry" also features in many an English folk-song in the refrain, "derry down." Tradition has it that it descends from the song the Druids sang as they danced around an oak tree after collecting mistletoe- CC: *daru- "oak." the surname Derry has an entirely different source: OF: denree "penny-worth." 18th C.

Dervla Y Anglicized form of Dearbhail-01: dearbh "sure," "certain," and "true" + ail "desire" or "will." In use since at least the eleventh century, it seems now to have absorbed another, more unwieldy, Gaelic name in use during the Middle Ages-Dearbhfhorghaill (dearbh + forghall "fable," and "romance"). 'Ibis was Latinized as Dervorguilla and borne by Dervorguilla of Galloway (c. 1210-90), the mother of John de Balliol, King of Scotland. Var: Derbogaill, Dearbhorgil (Ir Ga); Devorguilla, Devorgil(1)a. Another Gaelic form of Dearbhail is Deirbhie. Revived 20th C. Bearers: Dervla Murphy (b. 1931), the Irish travel-writer; Dervla Kirwan (b. 1971), the Irish actress.

Derwen y c? Welsh: derwen "oak." Late 19th C. Var: Derwyn, Derwynn, Derw.

Derwent Gc The name of four English rivers, and a surname derived from them. In the Roman period, more than one place situated on these rivers was called Derventio, hinting fairly strongly that they had taken their names from the rivers-common Roman practice. CC: *derwo- "oal" (and thus cognate with DARON and DART), perhaps plus *windo- "white." It is possible that a God, maybe the same God, presided over all these rivers. 19th C.

Derwydd c Welsh: derwydd "Druid." Early 20th C.

Derya Y a' Turkish name-derya "sea" and "ocean." It is also used to denote a very learned individual.

Desdemona Y The tragic heroine of Shakespeare's Othello, who acquired her name from Cinthio's Hecatommithi (1565), where it appeared as Disdemona. Cinthio appears to have coined it from Gr: dusdaimonia "misery." 18th C.

Desiderata Y Feminine form of Latin Desideratus "desired" and "longed for" < desidero "to long for," "to wish for," and "to desire," etc. Used in the Middle Ages, it may have survived into the sixteenth century in vernacular forms such as Disary, Dissery, Dyzary, and Dyzory.

Desiderius e Late Latin name from desiderium "longing," "ardent desire," "wish," "grief," and "regret." It was borne by several saints between the fourth and eighth centuries. It, Sp: Desiderio, Hun: Dezsó, Fr: Didier.

Desire ? Strange as it may seem, Desire was first used as a given name in the sixteenth century by the Puritans. Nor did it have any meaning particularly different to its use today, though presumably the sentiment behind it was more along the lines of "desire God" and "desire the Lord" than for anything more earthly or sensual. OF: desir < L: desidero "to long for," "to wish for," and "to desire."

Desiree 2 French: desiree "desired" and "longed for." Desiree is technically the equivalent of DESIDERATA, but is also used as the French form of Desideria-a feminine form of DESIDERIUS. It was first used in the ESW in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Desiree Clary (1777-1860), the Queen of Sweden and Norway, where she was known as Desideria. Masc: Desire.

Desmond c A medieval kingdom of Ireland, forming part of Munster and meaning simply "South Munster" in Gaelic. It was also used to Anglicize the Irish surname O Deasmhumhnaigh "descendant of the man from Desmond." 18th C. Dim: Des. Bearers: Desmond Tutu (b. 1931), the South African Archbishop; Desmond Llewelyn (1914-99), the Welsh actor; Desmond Hume, a character in the American television drama Lost (2004-10); Desmond (1792) was a novel by Charlotte Turner, whose hero bore the name Lionel Desmond.

Despina Y Modern Greek name. Gr: despoina "mistress." It features as the name of a character in Mozart's opera Cos! fan tutte (1790).19th C.

Desta c' ? Ethiopian name. Amharic: dista "joy." It was borne by an Ethiopian prince, the son-in-law of the Emperor Haile Selassie.

Deucalion c' In Greek mythology, Deucalion and his wife Pyrrha were the only survivors of a Great Flood at the end of the Golden Age. Prometheus, Deucalion's father, had foreseen the flood and warned Deucalion, telling him to build an ark, which they landed on Mount Parnassus-the only place on Earth spared during the deluge. Afterwards, they consulted an oracle to find out how to replace humankind, and were told to throw their mother's

bones over their shoulders. Things could have become a bit gruesome at this point, but Deucalion and Pyrrha had the wisdom to see that the oracle did not refer to their birth mothers, but to Mother Earth. They duly started hurling whatever stones and pebbles they could lay their hands on, which magically turned into people. The origin of the name Deucalion isn't entirely clear. It may be a combination Gr: DEUS + kalos "beautiful," but a more likely derivation, given the tale, is Gr: deuo "to wet" and "to drench" + kalios "cabin." Early 20th C.

Deus e Principally the Latin word meaning "(a) God," Deus is also an Ancient Greek variant of ZEUS, used principally in Boeotia. 20th C.

Dev c~ Indian name. San: DEVA "(a) God." Fem: Devi; Devika (dim).

Deva 2 All roads lead to Rome, and all Devas lead to PIE: *deyw-o- "(a) God" or "sky God." Meaning simply "(a) God" in Sanskrit and cognate with the Greek ZEUS, Latin DEUS, Welsh DEWI, Irish DAGDA, the word deva is used in a similar fashion in Hinduism and Buddhism to mean "(a) God" or "celestial being." The word was adopted by Theosophists to denote nature-spirits, and is sometimes used of fairies. Deva-deriving from the same ultimate source through CC: *d(Ewo-is the name of a Celtic Goddess. She gave her name to the River DEE, which in turn gave its name to the Roman legionary fort built on its banks-now known as Chester. 19th C.

Devdan g Indian name. San: DEVA + dana "gift"-i.e. "gift of (a) God."

Devdas cc Indian name. San: DEVA + dasa "servant." Var: Devadas.

Devel cc Romani: devel "(a) God" < PIE: *deyw-o-.

Deverra 2 A Roman Goddess of sweeping, and thus purification. She presided protectively over the threshold of a house where a woman was in labor-reminiscent of the role played by the Egyptian Heqet.

Devil a The word "devil" derives ultimately from Gr: diabolos "slandorous" and "back-biting." As a substantive, it means "slanderer" and "enemy." It was adopted by Christian writers as a name for Satan, with whom it has been associated ever since. Despite the intense negativity surrounding the

name, it is encountered as a given name from the nineteenth century, although some of this use may be an adoption of the surname-now almost entirely spelled de Ville, Deville, Davall, etc., in order to distance itself from its unre lated diabolic double. In many cases, this surname derives from Deville in France < F: dieu "(a) God" + ville i.e. "God's town"-which is quite ironic, really. However, in some cases, the surname's origin really was "devil," used as a nickname in the Middle Ages for someone a bit devilish.

Devin cc Surname of more than one origin. In some cases, it is simply a variant of DIVINE. In others, it may be of Huguenot origin, probably from Fr: devin "soothsayer"making it closely related to Divine too. In some cases, Devin may also be an Anglicized form of the Gaelic O Daimhin "descendant of Daimhin" (01: Daimhin-damh "stag" + dim. suffix -in) or O Duibhin (01: Duibhin-dubh "blacl" + dim. suffix fn). 19th C. Var: Devyn; Damhan, Dubhan (Ir Ga).

Devlin e English and Irish surname-although in a funny sort of way, the English is ultimately Irish, and the Irish English. All will become clear! The English surname means "from Dublin" < It Ga: dubh "blacl" + Zinn "pool."The Irish name is an English form of the surname O Dobhailein "descendant of Dobhailen." Dobhailen is probably a byname < dobhaidhail "boisterous," "stormy," "raging," "destructive" and "terrible" + dim. suffix -dn. 19th C.

Devon Gc An English surname and a county, the surname denoting someone from the county. Devon gets its name from the Celtic tribe who inhabited the area in Roman times-the Dumnonii. CC: *dubno- "deep" and "world" + *nanto- "stream" or "valley." There are also two rivers called Devon, one in Clackmannanshire, Scotland, and the other in Nottinghamshire, England. They are thought to be cognate with TYNE. 18th C.

Dew 2 d Old English: deaw "dew" < Old Germanic *dauwo- < PIE: *dheu- "to flow" and "to run." In the past, the science behind dew was unknown, and its appearance in a morning after a night of no rain was considered magical. Even though we now know it is caused by the condensation of water from the atmosphere, the beauty and delicacy of dewdrops still hold

the power to enchant. A cobweb bejeweled with dew is one of Nature's loveliest art-works. Dew was highly prized by alchemists in times past, and collected in May to use as a solvent in their activities, particularly from lady's mantle (*alchemilla*). From China to Greece, it was believed in ancient times that pearls were created from dew, specifically dew fallen from the moon. Dew is also strongly associated with fertility and beauty. It was an old British folk-tradition that girls and young women would wash their face in the morning dew on May 1 to give them beautiful

skin, and rolling in the dew, or spending the night lying outside under a full moon in order to be covered with dew, were both considered potent aids for conception. Dew is found as a given name from the seventeenth century- but at first this is the adoption of the surname, which has three distinct origins. The first is plain "dew," thought to have been bestowed upon someone who lived by dewy ground. The second is W: ddu "black" and cognate with DEE. The last is d'Eu, derived from Eu in Seine-Maritime, France. In Twi, dew means both "joy" and "to flame" or "to blaze"; the expression dew bayi means "to practice Witchcraft" and "to bewitch." Var: Dewy (see Dewey).

Dewdrop Y Used of an individual drop of DEW since the fourteenth century. It is also the name of a small glass bead. Late 19th C.

Dewey, Dewy c~ English and Welsh surname, the English deriving from Douai in France, the Welsh from DEWI. The word "dewy" is also, of course, an adjective formed from DEW. 17th C. Bearers: Dewey, one of the three nephews of Donald Duck. The Dewey Decimal Classification, devised by Melvil Dewey in 1876, is familiar to anyone who has ever set foot in a library.

Dewi c' Y The boy's name Dewi is a very old and very interesting name. Dewi Sant is the Welsh name for St. David, and many people believe it is simply the Welsh form of David. It isn't. David is simply the name adopted to render Dewi in English, a long time ago. Almost certainly, his name actually derives from CC: *d(Ewo- "(a) God," cognate with ZEUS, DEUS, DEVA, DAGDA, etc. The element is well attested in given names in the Roman period-examples include Deomiorix, Deiana, and Deieda (see Dieda). Some have attempted to derive the name from Dewydd an alleged

"old form" of Dafydd-the Welsh form of David-but the argument works just as well the other way-Dewydd may well represent an attempt to synthesize Dewi and Dafydd. The simple fact is, biblical names were not used in subRoman Britain, and thus the likelihood of someone genuinely being called "David" in sixth-century Wales is, quite frankly, about as likely as someone in the period being called Jayden. Dewi was used as a given name in the Middle Ages, probably in honor of the saint, but then disappeared until its revival in Wales in the nineteenth century. By coincidence, the Malaysian girl's name Dewi means "Goddess."

Dexamene Y The name of one of the Nereids. Gr: dexamene "received" < dekhomai "to receive" or "to accept." The word was used as a substantive to mean a "receptacle," specifically of water, hence its usual translation as "reservoir" or "cistern."

Dexter c Latin: dexter "on the right," "skillful," "handy," "dexterous," "proper," and "suitable." The English surname Dexter is from another source-OE: dea3estre "a (female) dyer." 18th C. Bearers: C.K. Dexter Haven, a character in The Philadelphia Story; Dexter Morgan, the murderous central character of Jeff Lindsay's Dexter novels (2004-).

Dharma ? e Sanskrit: dharma "moral merit," "law," "manner," "nature," "duty," "virtue," and "righteousness." It is used in Hinduism to denote "moral law" and "religion"-especially the sense of a specific religious path. In Buddhism, the meaning is very similar; the term is often used to denote the whole body of Buddha's teaching. 20th C.

Dhruva (' The Indian name for the Pole Star. In Hindu mythology, Dhruva was a young follower of Vishnu, rewarded for his devotion by being turned into the star. San: dhruva "firm," "stable," "sure," and "fixed."

Dhyana Y e Sanskrit: dhyana "meditation" and "contemplation"-equivalent to the Japanese ZEN. Jhana is the Pali equivalent used in Buddhism.

Dia Y A word with a number of interesting meanings in various languages. In quite a few, including Portuguese, it means "day," while in Scots and Irish Gaelic, it means "(a) God." In Surinamese, it means "deer," while in Swahili, it means "retribution," "ransom," "punishment," and "atonement."

In Greek mythology, Dia was said to be the original name of the island Naxos, where Theseus abandoned Ariadne.

Diamond Y cc Middle English: diamante < Late L: diamas < L: adamas "adamant," "strong as steel" < Gr: adamas "invincible." Diamonds are prized for their clarity, purity, and rarity. They are believed to be good at boosting energy and increasing the potency of other crystals. They are said to promote stamina and courage, and can be used to cleanse auras and enhance clarity of vision. The English surname Diamond mostly arose as a variant of Dayman < ME: dayman "herdsman" or "dairyman." Some are from Diamanda- a Medieval Latin form of "diamond"-used as a woman's name in the thirteenth century. The surname appears as a given name from the sixteenth century; by the end of the nineteenth century, it is clear that the precious stone rather than the surname was in people's minds.

Diana Y The Roman virgin Goddess, associated with hunting, wild animals, women, childbirth, and the moon. At an early date, she was equated with Artemis, and there was the inevitable blending and merging of myths. Her name seems to derive from the same source as DEUS, DEWI, DEVA and ZEUS-PIE: *deyw-o-. She is much revered by modern Pagans, especially Dianic Wiccans, who derive their name from her. 16th C. Dim: Di, DEE. Var: Deana, Deanna, Dianah, Dianna, Dyana, Dyanna (mod). Dut, Get, It, Port, Rom, Ru, Sp: Diana, Fr: DIANE, Cro, Serb, Slv: Dijana, Haw: Kiana. The Romani girl's name Daiena probably also derives from Diana. Bearers: Diana Wynne Jones (1934-2011), the British novelist; Diana Ross (b. 1944), the American singer; Diana, Princess of Wales (1961- 97); Diana Paxson (b. 1943), the American Pagan novelist, who co-authored some of Marion Zimmer Bradley's later works; Diana Rivers, a character in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre (1847); Diana Barry, a character in Lucy Maud Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables novels (1908-39); Diana Tregarde, a fictional Witch in Mercedes Lackey's Diana Tregarde trilogy.

Diancecht c~ The God of healing and grandfather of Lugh. In Irish, his name is more correctly written Dian Cecht. 01: dian "keen" and "hasty" + cecht "plough" or "plough-beam" (which may hint at an early fertility

aspect) or CC: *kuoku'-o- "to cook" (referring perhaps to a potion or other remedy prepared for healing).

Diane Y French form of DIANA, used in France since the Renaissance, and the ESW since the nineteenth century. Dim: Di, DEE. Var: Deanne, Dian, Dianne, DION, Dionne, Dyan, Dyane, Dyanne. Bearers: Diane de Poitiers (1499-1566), the mistress of King Henry II of France; Diane Duane (b. 1952), the American writer of sciencefiction and fantasy.

Dice Y Latinized form of Greek Dike, the personification of justice < Gr: dike "justice." 19th C.

Dicentra 2 Botanical name for bleeding heart. Gr: dikentros < di- "two" + kentron "sharp point" or "spur."

Dick ci Traditional short form of RICHARD. It was extremely common in the Middle Ages, as evidenced by the old saying, "every Tom, Dick, and Harry." It has been in independent use also since at least the eighteenth century. In the last century, it has fallen out of use as a name, largely because for the last hundred years or so it has been used as a slang term for the penis. Dim: Dicky, Dickey, Dickie-like other names that were once common, Dicky has also found its way into generic language as "dicky," "dicky-bird," and "dicky-daisy."

Dickon c~ Medieval pet-form of RICHARD formed on the short form DICK, with the addition of the diminutive suffix -on. It gave rise to a surname, and it is probably this which occurs in use from the early nineteenth century rather than a resurrection of the medieval name. Bearers: Dickon Sowerby, a character in Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* (1911).

Dictaeus C' Epithet of Zeus, deriving from the mountain Dicte in Crete, and acquired because in some myths this was his birthplace. Dicte is closely associated with DICTYNNA.

Dictynna ? Another name for the Cretan Goddess Britomartis, who is equated with Artemis. The true etymology of Dictynna is probably lost to time, but it was associated in ancient times with Gr: diktuon "(hunting)

net." She is sometimes called Dicte-the name of a mountain in Greece associated with her since ancient times.

Dido Y The tragic Carthaginian queen of myth and legend, immortalized by Virgil in the Aeneid. Falling in love with the Roman hero Aeneas, she killed herself when he abandoned her to fulfill his quest and find the Trojans a new homeland. "The etymology is very uncertain, but a very plausible and intriguing option is Akkadian: *didu*, which may have passed into Phoenician or had a Phoenician cognate (the two languages are closely related). In its most basic sense it was used of a woman's robe (*dada*) to mean "loosened" or "torn," but it also had the transferred use of "temple prostitute." It was used as a name of the Goddess Lamashtu, an unpleasant character associated with anything and everything that might go wrong during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as sickness and death in infants and children. 16th C. Bearers: Dido (b. 1971), the English singer-songwriter-whose birth name is Florian Cloud de Bouneville O'Malley Armstrong; she has been called Dido since childhood.

Didymus e Greek: *didumos* "twin." The Greek name for the constellation Gemini was *Didymoi*, and in some texts, the Apostle Thomas is also called *Didymus*. 16th C.

Dieda Y A character in Marion Zimmer Bradley's *The Forests of Avalon* (1993). It is based on a name recorded on a curse tablet found at Bath-Deieda-derived from CC: **d(wo-* "(a) God." It is now believed that this actually represents a theonym, rather than a personal name.

Diego c Spanish name of uncertain origin. It is usually treated as a short form of SANTIAGO, but there is evidence to suggest that Diego has a separate history; it has been in use in Spain since at least the eleventh century. In medieval times, it was Latinized as *Didacus*, which has led some to speculate that the name actually comes from Gr: *didakhe* "teaching" or *didaktos* "taught"; in a Christian context it was often used to mean "taught by God." Whether this is the true source of the name or not, however, is debated. Ignored is the possibility of a Celtiberian source. CC: **deg(i-* "flame" and "blaze" is plausible.

Dieter e Traditional German name. OG: Theudhar- theuda "folk" + hari "army."

Digby o' An English surname, which originated from the town of Digby in Lincolnshire. ON: diki "ditch" + by "farmstead," "settlement," or "village." 16th C. Bearers: Digby Mackworth Dolben (1848-67), the British poet, who drowned at the tragically early age of nineteen; Digby Geste, one of the principal characters in P.C. Wren's *Beau Geste* (1924).

Diggory e The earliest form of Diggory in English was Degore, which featured in the fourteenth-century anonymous Arthurian Romance *Syr Degore*. Its etymology is very uncertain. There was a Breton narrative poem called the "Lai d'Esgare," which may have been the inspiration for the English version. Usually, this name is interpreted as Fr: egare "lost," but there are problems with this; largely how the de "of" fits. It may be that the name is actually Celtic in origin, and was mangled when turned into French to give it the meaning "lost" because it works nicely in the story. What an original Celtic name may have been is very difficult to say, but it might, conceivably, have been cognate with Dungarth, a legendary king of Dumnonia. Probably CC: *dubno- "deep" and "world" (doun in Middle Breton) + *kar-o- "to love" the Middle Breton form of this is karet. 15th C- mostly in Devon and Cornwall, also strengthening the case for a Celtic origin. Var: Degarre, Degare, Degorie, Degory, Degorye, Digorie, Digory. Bearers: Digory Kirke, a character in C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*.

Diligence Y French: diligence < L: diligentia "hard word," "industriousness," and "attention to detail." Taken up by Puritans in the seventeenth century, but it did not take hold-even though it shortens rather nicely to Dilly and JENNY, etc.

Dill y a Old English: dili "dill." Dill is a very useful plant, more familiar than most because it is a popular culinary herb. In herbal medicine it is valued for its soothing effect on the digestive system, as well as being a diuretic and helping to control infections. Ruled by Mercury and Fire-like its close relation fennel-dill's magical applications are also similar, relating to protection, love, and prosperity. Dill seeds added to a bath are said to make the bather irresistible. There is also a surname Dill with confused origins. A medieval name Dulle existed, possibly cognate with ME: dull

"dull." This was used as a nickname, and is responsible in part for the surname, but in some cases, the herb itself is at the root. 18th C. Bearers: Dill, a character in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960).

Dillon e English surname. One source is the personal name Dillon, a pet form of Old German Dillo. Its origins are very uncertain; it may or may not be related to Old English Dulle (see Dill). The other source is the village of Dilwyn in Herefordshire. OE: diglum "at the dingles" < digle "dingle"-a shady, secretive place. 17th C. Var: Dilon, Dillan. In the present century, it has been much muddled up with DYLAN.

Dilwyn A Welsh name. Dilwyn was first used as a given name in the late nineteenth century. Its use was almost certainly inspired by the village of Dilwyn in Herefordshire, on account of its resemblance to many Welsh names-even though its origin is in fact entirely English (see Dillon). However, Dilwyn has since been given a Welsh interpretation-as it breaks down very satisfyingly to W: dil "honeycomb" + gwyn. Fem: Dilwen.

Dilys Y Welsh: dilys "sure," "certain," "genuine," and "authentic." 19th C.

Dima Y C? Dima the girl's name is Arabic, deriving from a root meaning "to continue" and "to persist"; in the context of the name's use it refers specifically to persistent rain and is often translated as "downpour"-a rare and much-valued thing in Arabia. The boy's name is a pet-form of Dmitriy, the Russian form of DEMETRIUS.

Dinadan cc One of King Arthur's knights. He had a reputation for intelligence, wittiness, and amicability and was averse to fighting for its own sake. The etymology is not at all clear; it may be simply an adoption of the old name for Edinburgh, which appears in the early medieval poem *Y Gododdin* as Din Eidyn (see Edana). It could also be an Anglicized form of DUNAWD.

Dinah Y Biblical name. Essentially the feminine form of DAN, although it is popular to translate it as "lawsuit" or "judged"-or even stretched to "vindicated," to fit the poor girl's tale (according to the Bible, she was raped). 16th C. From a fairly early date, it got quite muddled up with DIANA. Var: Dina. Bearers: Dinah Craik (1826-87), the British poet and

novelist; Dinah, Alice's cat in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865) and Through the Looking Glass (1871); Dinah Warberton was tried for Witchcraft in Somerset in 1664. What happened to her is unknown.

Dindrane Y The name given to Percival's sister in some Arthurian Romances. It probably represents an Anglicization of its Welsh form-Danbrann.'The etymology is a bit fuzzy. Possibly MW: dawn "gift" or dwn "brown" or "dart" + bran "raven." Var: Dindraine.

Dinesh cc Indian name. San: diva "day" + isa "lord." Dinesh is a name of the sun.

Dino c~ Italian short form of any name ending in -dino, particularly Bernardino (see Bernard). In Romani, dino means "gift."

Dio Gc Latinized form of Greek Dion, composed of Dio- "of ZEUS" + suffix -on. DION is sometimes used as an alternative form in English. It was notably borne by the first-century BCE Greek philosopher Dio of Alexandria and the Roman historian Cassius Dio (160-230 CE). Dio now means "God" in a number of languages, including Italian and Spanish. 19th C.

Diodora Y Feminine form of DIODORUS. In modern use, it is the name of a genus of sea-snails, limpets, and mollusks.19th C.

Diodorus cc Meaning "gift of ZEUS," Diodorus was a common name in the ancient world. Bearers: Diodorus Siculus, the first-century BCE historian; Diodorus of Aspendas, the fourth-century BCE philosopher. Late 18th C.

Diogenes c? Ancient Greek name-diogenes "sprung from ZEUS," "born of Zeus," "descended from Zeus" or "Zeusborn." Bearers: Diogenes the Cynic (c. 412/404-323 BCE), the philosopher known for living in a large earthenware container in the precinct of a temple in Athens-and arguing a lot with Plato. 17th C.

Diomedes e Ancient Greek name, particularly associated with the Greek hero who fought at Troy. Diomedes possessed the rare combination of

being a great warrior and very wise. Gr: Dio- "of ZEUS" + medos "plans" and "counsels." Sometimes Anglicized as Diomede or Diomed.

Dion Y c~ The male name Dion is a variant of DIO, while the female is generally a variant spelling of DIANE. Var: Deon. Bearers: Dion Fortune (1890-1946), the pseudonym of Violet Mary Firth, a British Theosophist, member of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, and co-founder of the Fraternity of the Inner Light.

Dione Y Essentially the feminine form of DIO, and thus ZEUS, Dione is the name of a Greek Goddess who is often regarded as a feminine aspect of Zeus. In some myths, she is the mother of Aphrodite. Late 16th C. Unsurprisingly, it has been much mixed up with Diana (which is cognate) and, in the twentieth century, with Diane, and it is treated by many as just a variant (which in some ways, it is).

Dionice Y Medieval form of DIONYSIA, representing a vernacular variant of DENISE. Var: Dionis, Dionise, Dyonis, Dyonise, Diances, Dianyse, Dyanisse.

Dionysia 2 Feminine form of DIONYSIUS. A couple of saints bore the name, and it was introduced to Britain in the twelfth century, becoming very popular in the Middle Ages, when it was often used in vernacular forms such as DENISE and DIONICE. Many other Latin variants are encountered over the centuries-Dianysia, Dionycia, Dionisia, Dionizia, Deonysia, Dunesia, Dyanisia, and Dyonisia, to name just a few. Diot was a medieval short form. The Dionysia was a major festival held in Athens in honor of Dionysus, at which dramatists competed. Without the Dionysia, we would almost certainly not have the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides-cornerstones of Western literature, written by Pagans, and dedicated to Pagan Gods.

Dionysius C? Latin form of Greek Dionysios "belonging to DIONYSUS." It was a very popular name in the ancient world, borne by a number of historical figures, the

best known being two tyrants of Syracuse who lived in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE, and the historian Dionysius of Halicarnassus (c. 60 BCE-

aft. 7 CE). It is also borne by at least twenty saints. It seems fairly safe to say that one or two of these are probably Christianized versions of the God, particularly the one who became the St. Denis, so revered in the Middle Ages-Denis of Paris. He is, most tellingly, invoked against frenzy and possession-both things associated with Dionysus. The usual form of the name in the Middle Ages was the vernacular DENNIS. Dionysius proper returned in the late sixteenth century. In Ireland, it used to be employed to render the Gaelic Donnchadh (see Duncan).

Dionysus c~ Although Dionysus was not originally one of the Olympian Gods, he had acquired a place on Mount Olympus by the classical period, and is one of the most important Gods of the Greco-Roman world. Most people know he is God of wine and the vine, but in a way these are secondary to his true significance. Wine is still considered a "social lubricant," well known for releasing inhibitions and stripping away "civilized" behavior, and this is what Dionysus truly represents-what lies beneath the skin, when that man-made veneer is removed: the wild, the untamed, the raw vitality of Nature. It is no coincidence that his close companion is Pan. His name has puzzled etymologists for centuries. In his case, the Dio- prefix probably doesn't mean "of ZEUS" as it usually does, even though Dionysus is regarded as Zeus's son. Like Dione, it probably relates directly back to PIE: *deyw-o-. What the -nysus means, however, is very uncertain. The Greeks believed it derived from NYSA. It is generally accepted that Dionysus is not a native Greek God, and it is likely he is Thracian in origin (like his mother, Semele). Not enough is known about the Thracian language to pin the -nysus down definitively. However, from what we do know, a very tempting possibility rests with Thracian: *nest "roaring" and "rumbling"; one of Dionysus's main epithets in Greek was Bromius from Gr: bremd "to roar." Might he be truly the "roaring God" through and through? 19th C.

Diotima 2 A legendary Greek female seer, who reputedly taught Socrates, when he was a young man, about the philosophy of love. She features in Plato's Symposium (c. 385-380 BCE). Diotima-in the Polish form Deotyma-was also used as a pen-name by the Polish poetess and novelist Jadwiga Łuszczewska (1834-1908). Gr: Dio- "of ZEUS" + tima "honor." Late 20th C.

Dipsas 2 A Witch, who features in the work of the Roman poet Ovid. The portrayal is not flattering. Gr: diisas-the name given to a venomous serpent, the bite of which caused intense thirst < diisa "thirst." Dipsas also features in John Lyly's *Endymion, the Man in the Moon* (1588).

Dirce 2 Not the nicest of mythological Greek women, though her fate is even less pleasant. Her niece Antiope came to her for protection after bearing twin sons by ZeusAmphion and Zethus. Dirce treated her terribly. Amphion and Zethus later avenged their mother by tying Dirce to the horns of a bull, which dashed her to death. Dirce seems to be derived from Gr: di-"two," "two fold," or "in two" + regnumi "to break asunder" and "to shatter"-a pretty graphic description of Dirce's fate. Early 20th C.

Dirk G~ Anglicized form of the Dutch Dirck (see Derek). The word dirk is also the name of a type of dagger used by Scottish highlanders. Early examples of Dirk in use in the ESW in the seventeenth century are clearly men of Dutch origin; by the nineteenth century, it had passed into more general use. Bearers: Dirk Bogarde (1921-99), the English actor, who was born Derek van den Bogaerde; Dirk Gently, the hero of Douglas Adams's *Dirk Gently 's Holistic Detective Agency* (1987) and its sequel *The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul* (1988).

Dittany Y Old French: ditan < Medieval Latin: dictamus < Gr: diktamnon said to be from Dikte (see Dictynna), hence why one of its names is dittany of Crete.'The little herb with delicate bluish-green leaves only grows wild in the mountains of Crete. Dittany was prized in ancient times for its healing qualities. A herb of Venus, dittany is used in magic to conjure spirits and promote astral projection. Two other herbs are called dittany-common dittany and white dittany. 20th C.

Divigena Y Latin: divigena "born of a God." Originally a masculine adjective.

Divina ? Latin: divinus "of a God" and "divine..""The earliest examples date to the eighteenth century, but it is clear that, in many cases, it had been confused with DAVINA.

Divine Y ' Middle English: devine < OF: devin < L: divinus "of a God" and "divine." Its use was originally confined to the sense of "of or pertaining to (a) God" but later took on extra layers including "sacred," "Godlike," "heavenly," "immortal," "pre-eminent," and "magnificent." It has also been used as a noun meaning "the Divine Being" since the late fourteenth century. Another meaning, since ancient

times, is "soothsayer" and "diviner," from which "diviner" and "divination" derive. The surname Divine derives from the same source. 19th C. Var: DEVIN, Devine, Devyn.

Dixie 2 Dixie is mostly thought of as a colloquial name for the southern United States. It is of uncertain origin, dates to the mid-nineteenth century, and was made well known by D. D. Emmett's song "Dixie" (1859). Although much of Dixie's use as a name derives from this source, it has been around since the seventeenth century, largely as a male name, being an adoption of the surname Dixie. This derives from L: dixi "I have spoken," which was used as a nickname for choristers in the medieval period.

Diya 2 cc Indian girl's name-San: diya "deserving of gifts." Diya is also used as a variant of the Arabic boy's name ZIA.

Django c Romani: django "music." Bearers: Django Reinhardt (1910-53), the Romani jazz guitarist.

Djed (' 2 An Ancient Egyptian symbol for stability, associated with Osiris.

Djilia Y Romani: djilia "song." It is also encountered in the form Gillie and derives ultimately from the San: kheli "sport" and "play."

Djoser cc Egyptian Pharaoh of the third millennium BCE. Egyptian: Dsr "magnificent," "splendid," and "sublime." Var: Dzoser, Zoser, Zozer.

Dodola Y A Slavic rain Goddess. She causes the rain by milking her cow, and is responsible for all the blooms and blossom of spring. Even in the twentieth century, in parts of the Balkans, the tradition survived that Dodola would be invoked in periods of drought in the hope she would bring the

rain. It has been suggested that the rite is a survival of ancient Pagan fertility rituals. Her name has been linked etymologically with Dodona, the name of the Greek shrine to Zeus, famous for its oracle, which was given in the leaves of the oak trees.

Doireann Y A name which occurs in Irish myth in a number of forms including Dairean, Daireann, Dairenn, Doireand, Doirend, and Doirinn. Among bearers are a daughter of the fairy king Midir, and a daughter of the Goddess Badhdb. The latter offered herself to Finn in marriage, but only on condition that he accepted she would be faithful to him for only the first year. After that, she offered to be faithful half the year. When he refused, she gave him a beaker of enchanted mead, which drove him mad. In Gaelic, doireann means "stormy weather," and this may possibly be the source of the name. Alternatively, it may be derived from "daughter" or doire "grove" and "thicket" + fionn. In the twentieth century, Doireann was resurrected to render DOREEN into Irish. Var: Doirean, Dorean (mod).

Doliarte e A helpful sorcerer in Francisco de Moraes Cabral's sixteenth-century *Palmerin of England*. L: Bolus "device," "artifice," and "guile" + ars "art" or "skill."

Dolina ? A simplified form of Donaldina, a Scottish feminine form of DONALD. Its Gaelic forms are Doileag, Doiliona and Doilidh. 18th C. Var: Donalda.

Dolly Y Traditionally, a pet-form of DOROTHY, Dolly has also been used as a short form of DOLORES since the nineteenth century, and as a name in its own right since the seventeenth century. It was so common in the seventeenth century, that it became a generic term for a pet or favorite, and then for a slut. In the late eighteenth century, it took on its meaning of "doll." Var: Dollie. Dim: Doll. Bearers: Dolly Pentreath (1692-1777), a famous Cornish Witch; Dolly Parton (b. 1946), the American singer-songwriter; Dolly Levi, the central character in the musical *Hello Dolly!* (1964).

Dolmen c' An alternative name for a cromlech—a prehistoric monument consisting of a flat stone supported by two others and forming a structure akin to a table. The word was first coined by French antiquarians from

Breton tol "table" + men "stone." 19th C. The Dolmen (1990-) are a British Pagan folk-rock band.

Dolores Y Originally a Spanish name taken from a title of the Virgin Mary- Nuestra Senora de los Dolores, "Our Lady of the Sorrows." It has been used in the ESW since the nineteenth century, largely among Catholics. Dim: LOLA, Lolita (Sp); DOLLY. Var: Delores. Bearers: Dolores AshcroftNowicki (b. 1929), the British psychic, writer, and founder of Servants of Light, a Hermetic order; Dolores Umbridge, a (rather odious) Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Dolphin Y The dolphin is a beautiful, graceful, and intelligent sea-mammal-which always appears to be smiling. Often credited as being one of the most intelligent species on the planet after humans, more than one writer has placed them above humans on the IQ scale. In Douglas Adams's Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series (1979-92), the dolphins abandon the Earth shortly before its destruction, and send the humans a message they inevitably fail to understand, which translates as, "So long, and thanks for all the fish." The dolphin carries much symbolism, standing for swiftness, affection, charity, and love. At liberty to swim the oceans, dolphins also stand for freedom, and with their friendly, inquisitive behavior, for playfulness, gentleness, and friendship. ME: delfyn < L: delphinus "dolphin." The surname Dolphin, however, comes from the Old Norse personal name Dolgfinnr-dolg "enemy" and "fiend" (in the plural, it can mean "ghosts") + Finn "a Finn." Occurrences in Scotland in the Middle Ages of Dolphin and Dolfin are this name in use, but it didn't survive. Examples from as early as the seventeenth century represent the surname being used, until the twentieth century, when it is probably "dolphin."

Dominic e Latin: dominicus "of or belonging to a lord or master" < dominus "master." Its use as a given name is due to a specific lord in mind- the Lord, i.e. the Judeo-Christian Yahweh. "The Lord" is, however, also used in Pagan circles to refer to the male aspect of the Divine-the God-and the name itself is non-religion specific. Nor is it actually gender specific; it could just as easily mean "belonging to a mistress, lady, or the Lady." Most of the name's use in the Middle Ages is due to St. Dominic (1170-1221), the founder of the Dominican order of monks. After the Reformation,

Dominic became principally a Roman Catholic name until the twentieth century, since when it has returned to wider usage. The surname Dominic may also be responsible for some usage after the sixteenth century. Dim: Dom, Dommy. Var: Dominick, Domenyk, DOMINY. It: Domenico, Sp: Domingo, Port: Domingos, Cz, Get, Pol, Ru: Dominik, Fr: DOMINIQUE, Hun: Domonkos.

Dominica Y Feminine form of DOMINIC, used since the Middle Ages. It: Domenica, Sp: Dominga, Cz, Pol, Ru: Dominika, Fr: DOMINIQUE.

Dominique 2 5' French form of both DOMINIC and DOMINICA. Introduced to the ESW in the nineteenth century, when it was first used principally for boys. Since the twentieth century, it is more likely to be used for girls. Bearers: Dominique Francon, the heroine of Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* (1943).

Dominy e Y Vernacular form of DOMINIC, it is first found as a male name in the seventeenth century, though most use dates from the nineteenth century, largely as a middle name for both males and females. This suggests that use at first was an adoption of the surname, itself derived from Dominic. Since the twentieth century, it has increasingly been used as a first name. Dominy was Doreen Valiente's maiden name.

Don cc Short form of DONALD, used independently since the nineteenth century. It is well known for meaning "lord" in Spanish and "Father" (i.e. a priest) or "Godfather" in Italian. It is also the name of four British rivers (see Don). Donella is a feminine diminutive form first encountered at the end of the eighteenth century.

Don Y The Welsh Goddess, equivalent to the Irish DANU. She is the mother of the Plant Don-the "Children of Don"-major Welsh deities such as Gwydion and Arianrhod. As a very ancient Goddess, unraveling her name is difficult. CC: *dfnu- "gift"-from which comes Irish ddn "gift," "bestowal," and "skill," and Welsh dawn-cognate with L: donum is a possibility, though the number of rivers which appear to be connected with her suggests that her name may derive directly from PIE: *danus "river." These rivers include four called Don in the British Isles, the Dane in Cheshire, two Devons (one English, one Scottish), possibly the Teign,

Tone, and Tyne-not to mention the great European rivers of the Danube, the Dneiper, and the Donetz. Moreover, in the early medieval period, Don may have been known as Donwy; an old name for the River Dee is the Dwfrdonwy (MW: dwfr "water" + Donwy), while the Welsh name for the Danube is Afon Donwy-i.e. "River Donwy"-and Donwy is found in the name of a third river, the Trydonwy, known in English as the Roden. But another, very intriguing option is that Don (and perhaps all the related river names) derives from *deywo- + suffix -ono- (often indicative of the name of a Deity). Indeed, Don may be so old that, as a name given to so many rivers, it became a word for "river" in some Indo-European languages.'This would explain why there does not seem to be any vestige of *danus with the meaning "river" in any of the living Celtic languages, despite the large number of rivers in the British isles which seem to derive from it. Intriguingly, Deiana occurs as a theonym on a tin disc found at Bath, while Divona is known as the name of a Goddess associated with thermal springs at Cahors in Gaul; in Cornish, divona still means "sacred spring." 20th C. See also Dwynwen.

Donald Anglicized form of the Scots Gaelic name Domhnall, deriving ultimately from CC: *dubno- "deep" and "world" + *walo- "prince" and "chief. ""The closely related Dubnovellaunus is attested in Britain in the first century

BCE as the name of kings of both the Cantici and the Trinovantes tribes in Southern England. It was in Scotland, however, that the name really thrived, being one of only a handful of names of Celtic origin to remain really common. Donald gave its name to the mighty clans MacDonaldthere are several-and is regarded today as a Scottish name par excellence. It spread from Scotland in the nineteenth century. Dim: DON, Donnie, Donny; Donaidh (Sc Ga). Var: Domnall. Irish: Donal, Jr Ga: Domhnall, Donall, W: Dyfnwal. Bearers: Donald Sutherland (b. 1935), the Canadian actor; Donald "Don" Mclean (b. 1945), the American singer-songwriter; Donald "Donny" Osmond (b. 1957), the American singer; Donald Duck, the cartoon character, who first appeared in 1934.

Donata Y Feminine form of DONATUS. It was first used in Britain in the Middle Ages, usually in the vernacular forms Donner and Donat; Donity,

Donetta, Donette, and Dunnett date from the seventeenth century.

Donatus e Latin: donatus "given (as a gift)," the name of more than one saint. Used from the Middle Ages, mostly in the vernacular form Donat, until the eighteenth century, when it returned to Donatus.

Donna 2 Meaning "lady" in Italian (it is used as a title in Italy), Donna is found as a given name in the ESW from the nineteenth century. It has sometimes been treated as a female form of DON. Bearers: Donna Tartt (b. 1963), the American novelist.

Donnan c~ Deriving from the Gaelic donn "brown" and "dark" + dim. suffix -an, this was the name of a seventh-century saint associated with the island of Eigg in Scotland. Var: Donan.

Donovan c? Anglicized form of the Irish surname O Donndubhain "descendant of Donndubhan," Donndubhan is probably a byname, derived from the Gaelic donn "brown" + dubh "black" + dim. suffix -dn carrying a similar sense to the English "black and blue." 19th C.

Dora Y A short form of DOROTHY, used as a name in its own right since the late eighteenth century. Bearers: Dora Wordsworth (1804-47), the daughter of the poet William Wordsworth; Dora Russell (1894-1986); the British pacifist, feminist, and writer. Now most associated with the children's animated television show, Dora the Explorer (2000-).

Dorabella Y A creation of the eighteenth century, combining DORA with the suffix -bella, filched from names such as Isabella and Arabella. It featured in Mozart's opera Cos! fan tutte (1790). Var: Dorabel.

Doran c~ Irish surname, the Anglicized form of the Gaelic O Deoradhan "descendant of Deoradhan." Deoradhan was probably a byname rather than a genuine given name, deriving from deoradh "stranger" + dim. suffix -an. 18th C.

Dorcas y Greek: dorkas "roe" and "gazelle." Dorcas features in the New Testament, where it was used as a translation of Aramaic Tabitha. 16th C. Bearers: Dorcas Good (c. 1688aft. 1710)-sometimes called Dorothy-was

one of those accused of Witchcraft in Salem in 1692. Although she was only four years old, the child was interrogated and imprisoned from March until December 1692.

Doreen Y Doreen arose in the latter nineteenth century as a variant of DORA, inspired by names such as Kathleen and Aileen, and perhaps even Dorinda. Although it is regarded as an Irish name, it seems to have been used in England first, and the name is barely encountered anywhere until the publication of Edna Lyall's *Doreen: the Story of a Singer* (1894), in which the title character Doreen is Irish. Dim: Reenie. Bearers: Doreen Valiente (1922-99), one of the most influential figures in modern Wicca, the author of the famous *Charge of the Goddess*.

Dorenia ? A Romani name of uncertain origins, in use in the nineteenth century. Most likely, it is an elaboration of DORA or corruption of DORINDA.

Doretta ? A name coined in the nineteenth century as a combination of DORA with the suffix -etta. It features in Puccini's opera *La Rondine* (1917) in the aria "Chi it bel sogno di Doretta."

Dorian c~ ? A name which came into use in the nineteenth century, and is almost certainly simply an adoption of the word "Dorian." "This is the English translation of the Greek Dorieus and DOrios, referring to the Doric Greeks, who in ancient times dwelt in the Peloponnese and gave their name to the Doric order of Greek architecture. According to Greek mythology, they descended from an individual called Dorus, which ostensibly derives from Gr: doron "gift." However, Dorus almost certainly didn't exist, and it is known that the Dorians' true origins are very ancient. Their name is even found on Linear B tablets of the second millennium BCE. If their roots are Indo-European, it is more likely that their name derives from PIE: *doru- "tree" and "wood," from which Gr: doru "wood," "beam," and "spear" also derived. Dorian was used by Oscar Wilde in his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890), and it is this which is largely responsible for the name's general use. In the twentieth century, Dorian also began to be used for girls. Var: Dorien, Doriana.

Dorinda 2 Dorinda seems to have been coined by the English poet Charles Sackville in the seventeenth century for his poem "Dorinda," by combining DORA with the suffix -inda. It is also the name of a character in George Farquhar's play *The Beaux' Stratagem* (1707). Late 17th C.

Doris y One of the Oceanids. Gr: Doris "(female) DORIAN" or doron "gift." Early 19th C. Bearers: Doris Day (b. 1922), the American actress and singer. Doris Crockford is a Witch who gets a brief but early mention in the Harry Potter series.

Dorje cc Tibetan name-rdo "stone" + rje "king," "majesty"; rdo rje is the Tibetan equivalent of the Sanskrit: vajra "hard," "adamant," and "thunderbolt"-the weapon of Indra. As a ritual object it resembles a scepter and features in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Dorje Shugden is a Buddhist deity or guardian of Dharma, at the center of a controversy since the late twentieth century, when the Dalai Lama attempted to suppress his veneration. Var: Dorjee.

Dornoll Y A warrior-Druidess of Irish mythology, who trained young warriors in the art of war. Among her students were Cu Chulainn and Loegaire (see Leary). She isn't portrayed in a particularly flattering fashion, however. Jr Ga: darn "fist" + oll "great." Var: Dornolla.

Dorothy 2 Usual English form of Greek Dorothea < doron "gift" + theos " (a) God." St. Dorothea is an alleged third-century saint, but her veneration didn't take off until the medieval period. The name was introduced to Britain in the fifteenth century, and quickly became established as Dorothy. Late medieval and early modern forms such as Dorat, Dorate, Dorrety, Dorritie, and Dorrity reflect the name's original pronunciation with a "t" rather than a "th"-just as is still the case with Thomas. It has a number of pet-forms: Doll and DOLLY date to the sixteenth century; DORA to the eighteenth; and Dodie, Dodo, Dot, Dotty, Dottie, and THEA to the nineteenth. Cz, Pol: Dorota, Cro, It, Sp: Dorotea, Bul, Ru: Doroteya, Ger: Dorothea, Fr: Dorothee, Hun: Dorottya. Bearers: Dorothy Wordsworth (1771-1855), the poet; Dorothy L. Sayers (1893-1957), the British novelist; Dorothy Lamour (1914-96), the American actress; Dorothy Gale, heroine of *The Wizard of Oz*; Dorothy Clutterbuck (1880-1951), an Englishwoman credited with initiating Gerald Gardner into Wicca in 1939; Dorothy

Magicke; a woman tried for Witchcraft in 1613-she was found guilty and imprisoned for a year.

Doruk e Turkish name-doruk "(mountain) summit," "peak," "apex," and "top."

Dougal c~ Scottish name, the Anglicized form of Gaelic Dubhghall-dubh "black" + gall "stranger." 'Me name arose as a nickname for a Viking. Used in Scotland since at least the twelfth century. Var: Dugal, Dugald. Sc Ga: Dughall. Bearers: Dougal, a character on the British version of the children's television series The Magic Roundabout (1965-77); Father Dougal McGuire, a principal character in British sitcom Father Ted (1995-98).

Douglas c' ? Anglicized form of the Gaelic Dubhglas- dubh "black" + glas "green" and "water." "This is the name of a river in Scotland, from which the clan name Douglas derives. It is cognate with W: Dulas-the name of an obscure Welsh saint (almost certainly not the same as the early fourth-century St. Dulas of Cilicia). 16th C. It was used early as a woman's name, as well as a man's-Douglas Howard, Lady Sheffield (c. 1542/43-1608) was a mistress of Queen Elizabeth I's favorite Robert Dudley. Generally, however, Douglas is used as a boy's name. Dim: Doug, Dougie. Sc Ga: Dughlas. Bearers: Douglas Fairbanks (1883-1939), the American actor; Douglas Adams (1952-2001), the British writer.

Dove Y c~ The dove famously symbolizes peace and love, and often represents the soul. Although now much associated with Christianity, the dove is sacred to Aphrodite and Isis. Duva-from OE: dufa "dove"-is found as a female name in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, possibly as a nickname for someone who was gentle. It gave rise to the surname Dove, which was bestowed as a first name from the seventeenth century.

Doyle c~ Irish surname, the Anglicized form of O Dubhghaill "descendant of Dubhghall." Dubhghall is the Irish Gaelic form of DOUGAL. 17th C.

Dracaena Y Latin: dracaena < Gr: drakaina "female dragon." It is the name given to a genus of trees and shrubs from which the resin dragon's blood is

extracted. Dragon's blood has long been used in herbal medicine and magic.

Ruled by Mars and Fire, it is employed in spells relating to love and protection. Early 20th C.

Draco c~ Latin: draco "dragon" < Gr: drakon "dragon" and "snake" < derkesthai "to see clearly." Draco is the name of a constellation, and is used to render the Greek name Drakon into English. 20th C. Bearers: Draco the Lawgiver (fl. 622- 620 BCE), the Athenian statesman infamous for his severity, from whose name the word "draconian" derives; Draco Malfoy, a principal character in the Harry Potter series.

Draenen Y Welsh: draenen "thorn."

Dragan cc Balkan name, deriving from a Slavic root meaning "precious," "darling," and "dear."

Dragon e Y French: dragon from DRACO. The English word "dragon" has come to mean a large, dinosaur-like winged creature which breathes fire. The red dragon is the national symbol of Wales, but its origins are very much tied with its Greek meaning and lie ultimately with the snake. In particular, the attribute of clarity of sight is underlined in the fact that dragons frequently feature as guardians in the Greek world-such as of the Golden Fleece, and the apples in the Garden of the Hesperides. And of course, a classic feature of fairy-tales and medieval romances is the damsel guarded by a dragon. Dragons, like snakes, often stand symbolically for Paganism, and there is many a tale of a Christian slaying them, most famously St. George and St. Michael. Despite the name, dragon's blood-much used in spells-doesn't come from real dragons, but is the resin from certain plants, in particular the genus *Dracaena*. There also happens to be a surname Dragon < OF: dragon ier "standard bearer"-this also comes ultimately from L: draco; the image on a standard in medieval times was frequently a dragon. 20th C.

Dragonfly c 2 The dragonfly is a magical sight of the summer, a flash of brilliance glittering over a still woodland pond. Like butterflies, they undergo metamorphosis, and are thus symbolic of change, regeneration and

rebirth. It is also a symbol of hope, and in Japan, they are symbolic of courage. 20th C.

Drake c~ English surname, partly from OE: draca "dragon." As the dragon often featured on banners, some bearers of the surname may have been standard-bearers. Some may derive from the cognate Old Norse Draki, which was used as a nickname. Another source of the surname is ME: drake "male duck." 17th C. It is quite likely that even at that date it was bestowed in honor of the British mariner, Sir Francis Drake (1540-96). Bearers: Drake Carne, a character in Winston Graham's Poldark novels (1945-2002).

Drew Y Anglicized form of Latin Drogo < Gothic: Draga < (ga)dragan "to carry" and "to bear," or a root cognate with Old Saxon: (gi)drog "ghost." It was introduced by the Normans, and was used enough in the medieval period in forms such as Drew, Drewe, Dru, and Drue to give rise to surnames such as Drew, Drewe, Drewell, and Drewett-the latter two from the pet-forms Drewel and Druet. From the seventeenth century, these surnames came into use as first names, and Drogo itself was revived in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth, Drew has often been used as a short form of ANDREW, and Drew and Drewe have become established as girls' names. Bearers: Drew Barrymore (b. 1975), the American actress.

Drina Y Short form of ADRIANA and ALEXANDRINA. It has seen independent use since the nineteenth century. Var: Dreena.

Drizzle c ? English word used from the sixteenth century to mean "fine rain." It is mostly associated with bleak winter days, although it can occur at any time of year. It derives from the verb "drizzle" of similar date, probably evolving ultimately from OE: dreosan "to fall."

Drolma 2 Tibetan name-sgrol ma "Tara," the Buddhist Bodhisattva or Goddess. Var: Dolma.

Druantia Y A variant form of Druentia, as used by Pliny the Elder for the name of the River DURANCE. Other writers, such as Strabo, all called it the Druentia. As with most rivers, the name is probably that of a Pagan Goddess. Although the derivation from CC: *daru- "oal" is now firmly

established in Pagan circles, along with association with dryads and Druids, it may in fact derive from a rather more prosaic PIE root meaning simply "to flow." Druantia has become popular as the "Mother of the Tree Calendar" and "Queen of the Druids," beliefs originating from Robert Graves in *The White Goddess* (1948). It is he who seems to have been the first to call her a Goddess-and to identify her as a Gallic fir Goddess.

Drudwen Y Welsh: drudwen "starling." Latter 20th C.

Druid cc Y The name of the priests of the Celts, who held considerable fascination for the Romans-partly because they scared them so much. It is well attested that at the time of the Roman Conquest, Britain was considered the homeland of the Druids, and a place where Druids across the Celtic world came to study.'The Druids were the principal source of opposition to Rome during the early occupation.'This led in 60 or 61 CE to the Roman attack on Anglesey-considered their stronghold-and the wholesale slaughter of the Druids and destruction of the sacred groves. The word "druid" derives from L: druidae and druides-both plural. Whether this came directly from the Celts or via Gr: druidai is difficult to say. However, the ultimate source is CC: *druwid- probably < *derwo- "oak" + *weyd- "to see" and "to know." Exactly what should be understood by the *derwo- is unknown. It is possible the word was originally used metaphorically to mean simply "strong," making a Druid a priest with "strong insight." However, there certainly seems to be a strong link between the Druids and sacred groves-particularly oak groves-which suggests a stronger and more significant role for the oak. In Irish Gaelic, druid means "starling," though its etymology is different-interestingly, however, the ancient Druids are also believed to have held starlings sacred. 19th C.

Drusilla 2 Feminine diminutive form of DRUSUS. It was first used in the Roman imperial family in the first century CE; a sister of the Emperor Caligula bore the name, as did his daughter.'The Judean king Herod Agrippa, who spent much of his childhood in Rome, also bestowed the name on one of his daughters. 16th C. Dim: Dru, Silla, Cilla. Var: Drucilla, Druscilla. Bearers: Drusilla-known as Dru-was a vampire in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003); Drusilla Paddock is a Witch in Jill Murphy's *Worst Witch* series (1974-2007).

Drusus 6 A Roman cognomen, originally associated with the gens Livia, before passing to the Julio-Claudian imperial dynasty. It was said that the first Livius to adopt Drusus did so because he had killed a Gaulish chieftain called Drausus. This is probably fictitious, a tale designed to glorify the family. There is no independent evidence of a chieftain called Drausus. However, although the "official" story is unlikely to be true, it is possible-likely, even-that the name is still Gaulish. Like many family myths, past and present, there is often a grain of truth buried in them. Perhaps the first Drusus had a Gaulish nurse-maid, who gave him it as a nickname or term of affection. It positively shouts out a relationship with CC: *daru- "oak" or *derwo- "oak" and "firm as an oak." Some derive it (or rather the related DRUSILLA) from Gr: drosos "dew," but this is unlikely; such a derivation is not at all consistent with the pattern of cognomina in the period, and if it was Greek, the Romans would have said so. Late 19th C.

Dryope Y Feminine of DRYOPS. In Greek mythology, Dryope was a daughter of Dryops, son of the River Spercheus in Thessaly. She was eventually turned into a black poplar, though exactly how varies from version to version.

Dryops c~ Greek: druops "woodpecker" < drus "oak" + ops "voice" or "face"-which technically could make Dryops the Greek version of the Green Man. The name of a number of minor figures in Greek mythology.

Drysi 2 Welsh: drysi "thorns."

Dua y Arabic name-dua "prayer" and "invocation."

Duanach c~ Druid in Irish mythology, who features in The Pursuit of Diarmait and Gráinne of the Fenian cycle. 01: duanach "fond of song" and "fond of poetry" < duan "song" and "poetry."

Duane c~ Originally an Irish surname-an Anglicized form of O Dubhain "descendant of Dubhan." Dubhan is dubh "black" + dim. suffix -dn. There is evidence Dubhan was used as a given name in the medieval period, though it was probably mostly employed as a byname. Early 19th C. Var: Dwayne.

Dubh c?' Y Old Gaelic name-dubh "black." Crom Dubh is a Celtic God, and in Ireland, the first Sunday in August is still called Crom Dubh Sunday-i.e. really rather close to Lughnasa, which may mean that he is associated with Lugh. However, in parts of Scotland, a trace of his veneration is found at Eastertide. Another Dubh is Dubh mac Mhaoil Chaluim, a tenth-century Scottish king. His name is sometimes spelled Dub and Anglicized as Duff. Dubh Lacha, meanwhile, is a sea Goddess. She may be one and the same with a Druidess called Dubh or Dubhlinn, who legend says gave her name to Dublin (although dubh Zinn means simply "black pool"). Generally, however, Dubh has seen most use as a byname, which is largely the source of the surnames Duff, MacDuff, and Duffy.

Dude e 2 Dude is mostly associated with the slang word, which originated in the United States at the end of the nineteenth century as a term for someone who was stylish and smart-"swanky" and "swell." It has now mostly lost this meaning and is used largely as an informal term of address

among a social group. In Romani, it means both "moon" and "bright"; while Dudee means "star" or "light"-both deriving from DYUTI. Late 20th C.

Dudley cc English surname, deriving from Dudley in Worcestershire. OE: Dudda (Anglo-Saxon name of uncertain origins) + leah.'The Dudley family was prominent in the sixteenth century; John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, was one of the men behind the throne of King Edward VI, and was instrumental in having Lady Jane Grey (his daughter-in-law) declared queen after Edward's death. It all backfired, and he and his son Guildford were executed. His other son-Robert-survived, and became Elizabeth I's favorite. Dudley is found as a given name from as early as the sixteenth century. No doubt the romance surrounding Robert Dudley and Elizabeth-and Dudley's ill-fated wife, Amy Robstart- did much to promote the name in the nineteenth century. Sir Walter Scott's novel Kenilworth (1821) made the story famous. Bearers: Dudley Moore (1935-2002), the British actor; Dudley Dursley, a character in the Harry Potter books.

Duha 2 Arabic name-duha essentially meaning "morning" (strictly speaking, the sense is "forenoon").

Duir e 2 Ogham name for the oak, deriving from CC: *daru- "oak." It is the seventh month of the Tree Calendar, from June 10 to July 17.

Duke e English surname. Its origins aren't quite as obvious as they appear. Though in some cases, the sense of "duke" was intended-presumably as a nickname for someone who put on airs and graces-in others, it seems to have developed directly from OF: duc "leader of an army" or "captain." Some examples may also be an altered form of Duck-"a duck." No doubt, the aristocratic title has been in the mind of some who have given it to their sons. 17th C. Bearers: Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974), the American jazz musician.

Dulcibella 2 Dulcibella was first used in the Middle Ages, rapidly turning into the vernacular Dowsabel. Why it was introduced isn't entirely clear, but it occurs from the thirteenth century. Perhaps it featured in a lost medieval romance. Medieval and early modern variants included Dousable, Dousabel, Dowsabell, Dowzable and Dussabel. Others are Dulcibel and Dulcibelle. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, "Dowsabel" became a generic term for a sweetheart. Dulcibella returned again in the seventeenth century. "Dulcibella, When e'er I Sue for a Kiss" (1694) was a song by Henry Purcell, setting to music a poem by Anthony Henley. Bearers: Dulcibel Burton, a character accused of Witchcraft in Dulcibel. • ATale of Old Salem (1907) by Henry Peterson.

Dulcie Y Often treated as a Victorian invention coined from L: dulcis "sweet," there is evidence that Dulcie is a survival of the medieval Dulcia-along with other variants which crop up along the way such as Dulce, DULSE, Doulce, Doulse, Dowlse, Douse, Dowce, Dauce, and, most of all, Douce. Dulcie was also used as a short form of DULCIBELLA. In Modern Spanish, dulce means "sweet" and "tender." Bearers: Dulcie Gray (b. 1919), a British actress; Dulcie, a character in Thomas Anstey Guthrie's novel Vice Versa (1882).

Dulcimer 2 A type of stringed musical instrument, played in Europe since the Middle Ages. OF: doulcemer < It: dolcemelle < L: dulcis "sweet" + melos "song" and "tune." 19th C.

Dulcinea 2 The object of Don Quixote's love in Cervantes's Don Quixote. L: dulcis "sweet." 19th C. Var: Dulcina. Bearers: Dulcinea "Nan" Pilgrim, a Witch in Diana Wynne Jones's Witch Week (1982), named after her ancestor, the "Archwitch" Dulcinea Wilkes.

Dulse Y A type of edible seaweed. It derives from the Gaelic name for it- duileasg and its Welsh cognate delysg. Ruled by the Moon and Water, it can be used in spells to increase libido and promote harmony. In the medieval and early modern period, Dulse occurs as a spelling variant of DULCIE. 20th C.

Dumuzi e Sumerian form of TAMMUZ, and the original name. Sumerian: dumu "child" + zi "breath of life" and "soul." It features in the myth of Inanna and Dumuzi, in which Dumuzi is depicted as a shepherd king. Var: Dumuzid.

Dunawd Gc Old Welsh name, borne by more than one figure in sub-Roman Britain, including a sixth-century saint and a son of Pabo Post Prydain. The etymology is very obscure, but a possible source is CC: *dunno- "brown" or *dubno- "deep" and "world" + *wedo- "to lead" and "to bring together," or *widu- "wood." Var: Dinawd, Dunod, Dunwyd (hist).

Duncan cc Duncan arose in the medieval period as a diminutive form of Donnchadh (also spelled Dunchadh) Ga: donn "brown" and "brown-haired" + cath "battle." It was the name of two eleventh-century Scottish kings; the first features in Shakespeare's Macbeth. It spread from Scotland in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Duncan Macleod, the immortal hero of the American television series Highlander (1992-98).

Dunlaith Y Irish Gaelic name-donn "brown" + flaith "ruler." Var: Dunfhlaith.

Dunstan c' Old English name-dun "hill" (which was adopted from the Celtic) + stan "stone." What the sentiment behind the name was when first bestowed is unknown, but it is tempting to treat it as a reference to the lonely, mystical standing stones and circles associated with the Brythonic past-which might also explain the choice of the Celtic word for "hill." Dunstan was the name of a ninth-century Archbishop of Canterbury and

saint, much revered in the Middle Ages, who is responsible for the name's survival after the Norman Conquest. Use since the seventeenth century is mostly of the surname which derives from it, or one of the places called Dunstan, which are cognate. Dim: STAN.

Durance Y c? A river in the South of France. In Roman times, its name was Druentia, or DRUANTIA, and it may be cognate with the English rivers DARON, DART, and DERWENT.

Durand c~ A curious name, borne by a thirteenth-century saint. It occurs in Medieval Latin manuscripts as Durandus, which looks like the Latin gerundive of duro "to harden," i.e. "(he who) must be hardened." Why such a name should come into use seems inexplicable-which suggests that Durandus may be the Latinized form of some other name or perhaps possess an entirely different origin altogether. A possible option is THORMUND. Fr: Durand, It: Durante, DANTE.

Durga Y A Hindu Goddess, Durga embodies the feminine force behind the universe and its creation. She is a spiritual warrior, both ferocious and merciful. An incarnation of Devi, she is also associated with Parvati and Kali. San: durga "impassible," "citadel," and "difficulty."

Durril a 2 Romani: durril "berry."

Dusan e Eastern European name. Cz: dude "soul" and "spirit." Anglicized as Dushan. Fem: Dusana.

Dusk ? The opposite of dawn, and synonymous with evening. The origin of the word is obscure, but it has been in use since the early eleventh century. Used as a given name from the latter twentieth century. Var: Dusky.

Dust e 2 Dust was one of the names the Puritans gave their children, probably with reference to the biblical passage "dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return"-which is the source of Philip Pullmans "dust" in the His Dark Materials trilogy (1995-2000). However, most use of Dust as a given name since the seventeenth century (which has not been much) has probably been an adoption of the surname, derived from OE: dust "dust"-used of someone with a dustcolored complexion or hair.

Dustin c? English surname, deriving either from THURSTAN or evolving as a variant of Duston, from Duston in Northamptonshire. OE: dust "dust" + tun. 18th C. Bearers: Dustin Farnum (1874-1929) and Dustin Hoffman (b. 1937)-both American actors.

Dusty 2 Gc Dusty was originally just a nickname, though in a few cases, it may have been used as a short form of DUSTIN. It was made well known by the American singer Dusty Springfield (1939-99), whose real name was Mary Isabel Catherine Bernadette O'Brien. Most examples of the name being used as a genuine given name date from the latter twentieth century, but it does crop up from time to time before that-one rather bizarre example being that of Sir Dusty Entwistle ('Sir" was his first name), whose birth was registered in Bury, Greater Manchester, in 1877. He married in 1906, but his fate after that is unknown.

Dwight e English surname, derived from Diot-a medieval pet-form of DIONYSIA. 18th C. Bearers: Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), the president of the United States-at birth he was called David Dwight, but as everyone called him Dwight, he changed his names around as a young man; Dwight Enys, a main character in Winston Graham's Poldark novels (1945-2002).

Dwynwen Y A fifth-century Welsh saint, often dubbed "the Welsh St. Valentine." In Wales, St. Dwynwen's day January 25-is increasingly celebrated alongside (or even instead of) St. Valentine's. A daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog, she is strongly associated with the island of Anglesey. Her tale is romantic-but not exactly cheerful; the lad she loved was turned to a block of ice in order to put an end to his love for her, and to remove him from her temptation. Variants of her name include Dwyn, Donwen, and Donwenna-all of which hint strongly at what may well be her true origin, the goddess DON. Her name is almost certainly a combination of Don + W: gwyn. Late 19th C.

Dwywai Y Said in Y Gododdin to be the mother of the poet Aneirin. St. Deiniol's mother was also said to bear the name. CC: *d(Ewo- "(a) God"; it may have simply carried the sense of "Goddess" or "Goddess-like"-although it is tempting to suggest that it is an Old or Middle Welsh form of DEVA, and the name of the Goddess herself.

Dyddgu 2 A fourteenth-century Welsh woman, celebrated in the poetry of Dafydd ap Gwilym. W: dydd "day" + cu "dear" or "beloved." Revived 19th C.

Dyfrgi g y Welsh: dyfrgi "otter."

Dyfrig c? An alleged fifth-century saint. Sometimes said to be a son of Brychan (which always sets the alarm bells ringing), and sometimes a daughter of King Peibo. There is an ancient holy well associated with him near Cardiff. CC: *dubro "dart" and "unclean" (from which W: dtivr "water" evolved) + *r-g- "king," suggestive in itself of a God. Var: Dyfri- associated with Llanymddyfri, better known in its English form Llandovery. In modern Welsh, dyfrig means "dripping" or "foaming." 19th C.

Dylan e In Welsh mythology, Dylan is the son of Arianrhod, born as she stepped over the wand of Math to demonstrate that she was still a virgin, so that she could become his "foot-maiden" (she didn't get the job). Almost as soon as he was born, Dylan ran off to the sea and "took on the sea's nature," where he stayed ever after. W: dylan "wave" and "ocean." 20th C. It is now much confused with DILLON outside Wales, with the one often being treated as essentially a variant spelling of the other. The correct pronunciation is "dul-an," but the name is invariably pronounced "DI-lan" in the ESW, like the surname of American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan (b. 1941). Bearers: Dylan Thomas (1914-53), the Welsh poet; Dylan the rabbit, in the British version of the children's television series The Magic Roundabout (1965-77).

Dympna Y Anglicized form of Damhnait, a traditional Irish name-Ir Ga: damh "stag" or "ox" + fem. dim. suffix -nait. It is the name of an Irish saint, traditionally known as Damnat, whose name is sometimes Anglicized as Davnet, but more usually as Dympna or Dymphna.

Dyuti 2 Indian name. San: dyuti "splendor," "luster," "brilliance," and "shimmer."

Diiugas c~ Lithuanian name, dating to medieval times. Lith: dziugus "cheerful," "cheery," "joyful," and "merry."

Ea e The Mesopotamian God of skill and craftsmanship, also associated with all waters and fluids-including semen. He is also a God of magic. He is one and the same as the Sumerian Enki.'The meaning of his name isn't entirely certain; in Sumerian, Ea can be interpreted as a simple combination of e "house" and "temple" + a "water" and "seminal fluid," but this may be coincidental, and its source may actually be the same as EVA, a Semitic root meaning "life."

Eachann c~ Scots Gaelic name-each "horse" + donn "brown." It survived into the seventeenth century, after which it was invariably rendered by Hector, until the nineteenth century, when Eachann was revived.

Eachna Y In Irish myth, the name of one of the cleverest women in the world-who enjoyed playing chess and drinking mead. 01: ech "steed." Var: Echna, Echnach.

Eadha c~ Y The Ogham name for the aspen. In the Tree Calendar, it represents the Autumnal Equinox. Var: Eadhadh.

Eager e ? In modern usage, an adoption of the English word "eager" < OF: aigre "sharp" and "keen." In the past, however, it may have represented the use of the surname, which derives from EDGAR. Occurrences in the medieval and early modern period may just have been Edgar itself.

Eagle c Y Middle English: egle < OF: aigle < L: AQUILA. The eagle is king of the birds, the sacred bird of Zeus, Jupiter, and Odin, and symbolic of majesty, courage, strength, protection, and foresight. 'The Persians used the eagle on their standards, and it later became a symbol of Rome. Each legion had an eagle standard which embodied the spirit of the legion-loss of the Eagle was considered the greatest dishonor.'The double-headed eagle, which dates to Sumerian times, became a symbol of the Holy Roman and Ottoman Empires in the Middle Ages.'The surname Eagle perhaps arose as a nickname for a regal-or imperious-individual. 17th C.

Eamon c~ Semi-Anglicized form of Eamonn, the Irish Gaelic form of EDMUND. Var: Eamon, Eamonn. Much of Eamon's use in the twentieth

century has been in honor of Eamon de Valera (1882-1975)-whose birth name was George-who was prominent in achieving the Republic of Ireland's independence, and went on to be both Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland) and President.

Earl cc Old English: eorl "nobleman." Earl was originally a feudal title. In the Middle Ages, it gradually became an aristocratic title equivalent to the European "count," which derived from L: comes "companion" (understood, of the king). The surname Earl arose as a nickname or a pageant-title, and does not denote that the bearer actually descended from an earl. 18th C. Bearers: Earl J. Hickey, the central character of the American sitcom *My Name Is Earl* (2005-09). Var: Earle.

Earline Y Feminine form of EARL, coined in the late nineteenth century. Var: Earlene, Earleen. Bearers: Earlene Fowler (b. 1954), the American author.

Early c~ Y Originating as a pet-form of EARL and EARLINE, Early has been used as an independent name since the late nineteenth century, largely for boys. Being identical to the English word "early," it may also have been used for babies born prematurely-or early in the morning.

Earnan c~ Old Irish name, possibly iarn "iron"+ dim. suffix -an. In the twentieth century, it has been used to render the English names Ernest and Ernie into Irish.

Earnest cc A respelling of Ernest, altered to emphasize the name's connection with "earnest." 19th C. It appears most famously in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895).

Earth c Y Earth was, ironically, first used as a given name by the Puritans in the seventeenth century. In their bleak way of understanding life, they wished to emphasize that at the end of a person's life, the body became "earth"-i.e. "soil" or "dirt"-with this understood to be a very negative thing. To a Pagan, however, there is nothing at all negative about Earth in any of her senses, only positive. From the soil in which things grow, to the name of our planet itself, Earth is essential to life and evidence that humankind has identified it as such is found from prehistoric times. Earth is one of the

four elements, and represents fertility. It is the safe-keeper and nurturer of life. Mother Earth is synonymous with Mother Nature, and in many ancient belief structures, Earth was a primordial Goddess. OE: eorðe < Old Teutonic: *erj d "earth."

Eartha 2 An elaborated feminine form of EARTH, coined in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Eartha White (1876-1974), an American philanthropist; Eartha Kitt (1927-2008), the American singer and actress.

Easnadh Y Modern Irish form of Esnad-the Otherworldly maiden, who caused the downfall and death of Muirchertach mac Ercae. She is called Sin in some versions of the tale. 01: esnad "musical sound" < seinnid "to sound" and "to play."

East c' Y The word "east" derives from OE: eastan < Old Germanic: *aus-to-no "from the east." The basic root is *aus "dawn." Symbolically, the East stands for beginnings, and corresponds with the element Air and the season of spring. It is considered the most significant direction by Druids, who generally will enter a circle by the West and pay particular deference to the East. The surname East was simply bestowed upon someone who came from the East-though not necessarily very far. 16th C.

Easter 2 c~ Mostly associated now with the Christian festival, Easter derives its name from its Old English name-eastre. Most sources agree this derives directly from the name of the Anglo-Saxon Pagan Goddess Eostre-also spelled Eastre-whose feast was held at the Vernal Equinox. Her name derives from the Old Germanic *austron "dawn," implying that Eostre's original function was as a Goddess of the dawn. Contrary to popular belief, her name is not connected with "estrogen," which actually derives from L: oestrus < Gr: oistros "gadfly; its ultimate root being the same as pima "impulse," "attack," and "rage." Because the incessant bites of this insect lead to frenzy in animals, it came to mean "frenzy" and "violent passion," and was applied to the period when a female animal was "in heat." Early twentieth-century scientists thought this a good word to form the basis of a name for the hormone. Little is known about the worship of Eostre in preChristian times, but taking into account all the evidence, it is clear she is a Goddess connected to the fertility of early spring. It seems safe to associate her with the egg as a symbol of new life and possibly also with

rabbits, also so deeply associated with Eastertide. Many Pagans prefer to call the Goddess and the Vernal Equinox Ostara or Oestara-from Old High German Ostara-to distance her from the Christian festival, but there is no reason why we can't reclaim Easter wholly, as it is perhaps the most blatant of all the Christian appropriations, stealing the name as well as the imagery and symbolism. As a given name, Easter dates to the Middle Ages, and has been used for both males and females, but for much of the last five hundred years of so, it has been hopelessly confused with ESTHER. Eostre, Eastre, and Ostara have also seen use as given names; Eostre and Eastre since the late nineteenth century, and Ostara from the late twentieth.

Easton c~ English surname, from any of the places called Easton. OE: east"east"+ tun. 17th C.

Ebba Y Ebba's use today is principally in Scandinavia, where it arose as a feminine form of Ebbe, a pet-form of Eberhard, itself the Scandinavian and German form of EVERARD. Ebba is also the Latinized form of Old English IEbbe, a name borne by more than one Saxon saint. This probably arose as a short form of a name beginning with eofor "boar," such as EVERILD. The masculine form IEbba is essentially cognate with the Scandinavian Ebbe.

Ebenezer cc Biblical name. Heb: "stone of help." 16th C. In Britain, the name is thoroughly tainted by association with Charles Dickens's character Ebenezer Scrooge, the principal protagonist of A Christmas Carol (1843). Dim: Eben. Var: Benezer.

Eber (' Eber is two distinct names. The first is a character in the Bible, considered to be the man who gave his name to Hebrew, but clearly an invention to explain it. According to the Bible, he and his family were the only people to retain the original human language after Yahweh decided he didn't like people communicating with each other so easily (it led to far too much amicable co-operation) and so created multiple languages, so they could no longer understand one another. Heb: eber "across" or "beyond," perhaps understood to imply "(one from) across (the river)," a distinctly tribal sort of name. The second Eber is Irish. Correctly written Eber, the usual modern form is Eibhear, but Eibher is also encountered, and it was the name of a legendary high king. Its origins are not entirely clear, but the

most likely option which suggests itself is CC: *eburo- "yew"; Eburus is attested as a given name in the Roman period, and IFOR is a wellknown Welsh name which is probably from the same source. It is also possible that, like Ifor, there has also been some confusion with or influence from the Norse Ivar, which was introduced into Ireland in the early modern period. The biblical Eber has been used in the ESW since the seventeenth century, and much mixed up with HEBER.

Ebony Y The hard, tropical wood prized since ancient times for fine carving and inlay and-more recently-piano keys. Ebony carvings have been found in Egyptian tombs. Gr: ebeninos < Egyptian: hbnj "ebony." Magically, ebony is associated with protection and power. 19th C. "Ebony and Ivory" (1982) is a song by Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder.

Ebrill Y c Welsh: Ebrill "April." Late 19th C.

Ebrillwen y Welsh: Ebrill "April" + gwyn. 20th C.

Ece 2 Turkish name-ece "queen."

Echela Y Lakota: ecela "only"-with the sense "only this and no other" understood.

Echinacea ? Latin name for the coneflower, much prized for its healing and immune system boosting powers, particularly for colds and flu. Magically, Echinacea is used to strengthen spells. Gr: ekhinos "hedgehog" + ake "point."

Echo ? In Greek mythology, Echo was a mountain nymph, who developed to explain the phenomenon of the echo. According to the myth, Echo had the gift of the gab, and used to distract Hera with entertaining stories while Zeus cavorted with the other mountain nymphs. When Hera found out, she cursed Echo so that she could only repeat the words of others. Echo fell in love with Narcissus, but was unable to communicate with him, and so he rejected her. She pined away until all that was left was her voice-the echo. Gr: ekhe "noise" or "roar." 17th C.

Eclipse Y a Old French: eclipse < Latin eclipsis < Gr: ekleipsis < ekleipo "to fail" i.e. fail to appear. It is the name given to the phenomenon when the Earth's shadow occludes the moon, or the moon occludes the sun. In the past, eclipses were viewed as portentous-especially solar ones-but are generally now appreciated as rare, but predictable, astronomical events. 19th C. A character called Eclipse-shortened to Clip-features in Kit Berry's Stonewylde series (2005-).

Ed c~ Short form of any of the names beginning with Eds such as EDWARD, EDMUND, and EDGAR. The petform is EDDIE. Used independently since the nineteenth century.

Eda Y Eda is principally a Turkish name-eda "manner" and "air," specifically "flirtatious airs" and "coquetry." It is also the Latinized form of the medieval name EDE.

Edana Y An Irish saint said to have lived in the sixth century. She is often called EDNA and is particularly venerated in Western Ireland. Folk-etymology also makes her the namesake of Edinburgh-one of its old names is Dun Edana, which gets translated as "Edana's castle," although this is probably a fanciful corruption of Dun Eideann "Eidyn's castle." Who Eidyn was is unknown; it is not even known whether the name is Old English or Celtic. It is often treated as if it was EDWIN, but it may be a medieval form of AIDAN. Meanwhile, the true origin of St. Edana is suggested by an old variant of her name: Etaoin. This is one of the variants of ETAIN, and in all likelihood the two are really one and the same. Edana is probably also identified with another obscure Irish saint, Medana, also known as Modwenna, which almost certainly arose as a combination of Edana with the affectionate prefix mo "my." 19th C.

Edborough y Old English name-ead "rich" and "happy" + burh "fortress." It was the name of an eighth-century saint, and it survived until the eighteenth century. By then it had been spelled in a marvelous array of variants including Edborrow, Edbury, Edbora, Edborah, and Edbra. The last two reappeared in the twentieth century, but appear to be independent coinages blending ED with DEBORAH. In the nineteenth century, Latinized Edburga was also used.

Edda 2 Medieval Latin form of EDE. Edda is also well known from the Prose Edda and Poetic Edda, the two principal sources for Norse mythology which were written down in Iceland in the thirteenth century. The origin of the Norse word isn't entirely clear; it may be from the Old Norse word meaning "grandmother" or from our "poetry." In the nineteenth century, Edda reappeared as a given name, but this may have been simply as a Latinate feminine of ED, rather than a revival of the medieval name or adoption of the Norse.

Eddie, Eddy ? Usually considered simply a pet-form of almost any name beginning with Ed-such as the male names EDWARD, EDMUND, EDGAR, and the female EDWINA-some use of Eddie and Eddy in the past has been an adoption of the surnames. These derive from the Old English name Eadwig-ead "rich" and "happy" + wig "war" or "battle." It was borne by a tenth-century English king. After the Norman Conquest, Eadwig survived long enough in the form Edwy for the surnames to develop. Bearers: Eddie, a character in Richard O'Briens The Rocky Horror Show (1973).

Ede Y e Often treated as a short form of EDITH, Ede has been a name in its own right since Anglo-Saxon times, when it first appeared in the form Eadu. OE: ead "rich" and "happy." Var: Ead, Eade, Edde, EDA, EDDA. Its use as a male name since the nineteenth century has been an adoption of the surname which derived from it.

Edelweiss Y The small alpine flower. Ger: edel "noble" + Weiss "white." The national flower of Austria, it became familiar worldwide after featuring in The Sound of Music (1965). Used as a given name in the ESW since the late nineteenth century.

Eden Y c~ Eden has two distinct origins. Its use as a name dates to the Middle Ages, when it was used as a diminutive of EDE and was also spelled Edon, Edine, Edan, Edden. Its second source is the name of the biblical garden, which has since become synonymous with "paradise"-a delightful retreat and/or an unspoiled, lush, wilderness. This is often derived from the Hebrew word for "delight," but it may in reality be Sumerian: edin and eden "steppe" and "plain" used specifically of the land between the Euphrates and the Tigris. Like other biblical place names (real

and imaginary), it was first employed as a given name for boys and girls after the Reformation in the sixteenth century.

Eder c Basque name-eder "beauty" and "glory." It is also the name of a minor character in the Old Testament. Heb: 'der "herd" and "flock."

Edern d Welsh form of Latin Aeternus "eternal." It was the name of the father of the legendary fifth-century Welsh leader Cunedda.

Edgar c~ Old English: Eadgar-ead "rich" and "happy" + gar "spear." It survived the Conquest, and gave rise to many surnames including Edgar, Edgars, EAGER, Egger, and AGAR. Revived late 18th C. Bearers: King Edgar (944-75), the grandson of the famous King Alfred; Edgar ,Ethling (c. 1051-c. 1126), regarded by many as the rightful king of England, who was usurped first by Harold Godwinson and then William the Conqueror; Edgar Allan Poe (1809-49), the American author and poet; Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950), the American novelist; Edgar of Gloucester, one of the principal characters in Shakespeare's King Lear, Edgar Ravenswood, the hero of Sir Walter Scott's The Bride of Lammermoor (1819).

Edina Y Edina is a girl's name mostly used in Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. Its etymology is very uncertain. It may be connected with EDITH or EDEN. Bearers: Edina "Eddy" Monsoon-whose "real" name is Edwina-in the British comedy series Absolutely Fabulous (1992-2004).

Edingel Y Romani girl's name in use since at least the nineteenth century. Its origins are very, very cloudy, and things don't become much clearer when the variant spellings are examined either. These include Adingail, Adingel, Eddingall, Edengail, Edengal, Edengill, Edingal, and Edingale. It may be a much modified form of ABIGAIL, heavily influenced by EDEN. It may possibly even represent a corruption of Evangela, a name found in Greece, Italy, and occasionally in the ESW, corresponding to the Macedonian Evangelija and Bulgarian Evangelija-all feminine forms of Greek: euaggelos "bringing good news." This is also found in the ESW in the nineteenth century in the form Evangel.

Edith Y Usual form since the twelfth century of Old English Eadgyth (EadgyO)-ead "rich" + gyd "war." It was a common name by the time of

the Norman Conquest, and is one of the few Anglo-Saxon names which managed to survive until the nineteenth century, when it was properly revived. Dim: Edie. Var: Edyth, Edythe.

Ediva 2 Latinized form of Old English Eadgifu-ead "rich" and "happy" + gifu "gift." In the post-Norman period Eadgifu was much confused with EDITH, which, as time went on, absorbed it completely. Revived 19th C.

Edme ' Y French diminutive of EDMUND, used most in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Fem: Edmee. Both Edmee and Edme have been used for girls in the ESW since the nineteenth century.

Edmund c~ Old English: Eadmund-ead"rich"+ mund "protection." Edmund is one of only a tiny handful of Old English names which not only remained common from Anglo-Saxon times until the twentieth century, but also spread to continental Europe. This widespread use is largely down to the ninth century St. Edmund, an East Anglian king. Var: Edmond. Sc Ga: Eamann, Ir: EAMON, Eamonn, Dut, Fr: Edmond, Get, Pol: Edmund, It: Edmondo, Port, Sp: Edmundo, Hun: Odon; Odi (dim). Bearers: King Edmund Ironside (c. 988/993-1016); Edmund Spenser (c. 1552-99), the English poet; Edmund Halley (1656-1742), the English astronomer; Edmund Pevensie, a principal character in C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia series; Edmund Blackadder, the eponymous anti-hero of the British television comedy series Blackadder (1983-89).

Edna 2 Edna makes a couple of appearances in the Apocrypha, where it probably derives from Heb: ednah "rejuvenation." 16th C. It has been used in Ireland as an Anglicized form of EDANA. Bearers: Edna Lyall (1857-1903), the Victorian novelist, whose real name was Ada Ellen Bayly; Edna Lyall was a partial anagram; Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950), American poet and playwright; Edna O'Brien (b. 1932), the Irish novelist; Evil Edna, a Witch (who happens to be a television set on legs) in the British children's television cartoon Will-o'-the Wisp (1981).

Ednyfed c~ Ancient Welsh name; in its earliest forms recorded as Eidniuet, Eidnivet, and Edenevet. OW: iud(d) "lord" + CC: *nemeto- "sacred grove"- a name redolent of the Old Ways. Breton: ludnimet (hist). It died out in the Middle Ages.

Edom c? Biblical name. Heb: edom "red"-cognate with ADAM; it was a byname given to Esau, legendary ancestor of the Edomites. 17th C.

Edred ' Old English: Eadred-ead "rich" and "happy" + reed "counsel." A tenth-century English king. The name just about survived the Norman Conquest. W: Edryd.

Edric c Old English: Eadric-ead "rich" and "happy" + ric. Var: Edrick. Wild Edric is a figure of Shropshire folk-lore; he happened upon a fairy gathering one evening, and kidnapped one of the women. She agreed to marry him as long as he never spoke ill of her sisters. The inevitable happened; one day he made an angry, throwaway remark-and she promptly vanished. He has since become associated with the Wild Hunt.

Eduf a' Old English: Eadwulf-ead "rich" and "happy" + wulf. It survived the Norman Conquest and may have lasted into the seventeenth century. Var: Edolph.

Edward c? The best-known and most popular of all Anglo-Saxon names, Edward has been a mainstream name for a thousand years and more. OE: Eadweard-ead "rich" + weard "ward" or "guardian." Numerous kings have borne the name, as well as more than one saint-not to mention King Edward the Confessor (c. 1003-66), who managed to combine being both a king and a saint. Since the Norman Conquest, there have been eight further kings, the last being Edward VIII (1894-1972), later Duke of Windsor, who abdicated in order to marry the American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson (1896-1986). Dim: EDDIE, NED, TED, Teddy. Port: Duarte, It Ga: Eadbhard, Fr: Edouard, Cat, Cz, Dut, Get, Ru: Eduard, It, Port, Sp: Eduardo, Nor, Ru, Sw: Edvard, Hun: Edvard, Fin: Eetu. Bearers: Edward Elgar (1857-1934), the English composer; Edward Morgan "E. M." Forster (1879-1970), the English novelist; Edward "Ted" Hughes (1930-98), the English poet; Edward Kennedy (1932-2009), the American statesman; Edward "Ed" Fitch (b. 1937), the American Wiccan author; Edward Kelley (1555-97), the ceremonial magician, alchemist, and medium, who worked with John Dee; Edward Bishop (1648-aft. 1692), who was imprisoned on charges of Witchcraft during the Salem Witch trials-he and his wife managed to escape and went into hiding, but their property was confiscated; "Edward," one of the best-known of the Child ballads; Edward

Rochester, the hero of Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847); Edward Scissorhands, the eponymous hero of Tim Burton's film; Edward Cullen, the vampire hero of Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series (2005-8).

Edwen 2 Welsh name. It was borne by one of the daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog. The etymology isn't entirely clear, but it is probably the same as Idwen—a combination of iud(d) "lord" (though in this context, "lady") + gwyn. Edwena is found from the nineteenth century, although in many cases, this may be intended as a variant of EDWINA rather than an elaborated form of Edwen. Var: Edwenna (mod).

Edwina Old English: Eadwine—ead "rich" and "happy" + wine "friend." Edwin survived the Norman Conquest and has remained in use to the present time. The Old Norse cognate Auðun was a byname for Odin. Var: Edwyn. Bearers: St. Edwin (c. 586-632/33), king of Deira, Bernicia and Mercia; Edwin Hubble (1889-1953), the American astronomer, for whom the Hubble telescope was named.

Edwina Y Feminine form of EDWIN, coined in the late eighteenth century. Bearers: Edwina Currie (b. 1946), the British politician and novelist; Edwina Crane, a character in Paul Scott's *The Raj Quartet* (1966-75). Var: Edweena.

E'en Y a Contracted form of EVEN, most familiarly found in Halloween, the variant British spelling of HALLOWEEN. E'en is found as a given name in the twentieth century, though it probably arose as a short form of names ending in -een or variant of IAN.

Egan a Irish surname, an Anglicized form of Mac Aodhagain "son of Aodhagan." Aodhagan is a double diminutive of AODH formed with the suffixes -ag + dim. suffix -an. Var: Keegan.

Egbert c Old English name—ecg "sword" + beorht. It was the name of a king of England (d. 839) and a seventh-/ eighth-century Northumbrian saint. Revived 19th C.

Egelina Y A Norman-French form of the Old German Agilina, a feminine form of EGIL.

Egemen a Turkish name-egemen "sovereign," "dominant," and "preeminent."

Egeria Y A nymph who had a spring and sacred grove in Rome (the Baths of Caracalla were later built around them). She is best known for her liaisons with the Roman king Numa Pompilius. The meaning of the name is not entirely clear; it has been suggested that it is cognate with, or derived from, Gr: aigeiros "black poplar." 19th C.

Egidia Y Feminine of Egidius, the Latin form of GILES. It appears in Latin records into the seventeenth century, but the women who bore the name probably went about their day-to-day business called Giles. In use as a genuine given name from the nineteenth century.

Egil c' Norse hero of the Poetic Edda-a brother of Volundr. Traces of his name survive elsewhere; it appears in two important Runic inscriptions-Old English IEgil on the eighth-century Frankish Casket, Old German Aigil on the sixth-century Pforzen buckle found in an Alemannic grave in Swabia. The Visigothic name Agila-borne by a sixth-century king of Hispania-is almost certainly the same name also. The reconstructed Old German from which the name is believed to derive is *Agilaz-but the meaning is still unknown. Some have suggested it originated as a diminutive of the Old German for either "sword" or "terror" but there are problems with both of these. There is, however, another option-that the roots of Agilaz lie with the Latin AQUILA. It is a word which would have become familiar to any who came into contact with a Roman legion. Every legion had an eagle standard which embodied a legion's "soul," and loss of this standard was considered the worst disgrace a legion could suffer. Thus, the association of aquila with warrior pride and spirit-particularly Roman-would have been well known to the Germans from the first century BCE, and perhaps even earlier. It is perfectly plausible that the word entered their vocabulary at an early date. It is also worth noting that Aquila was not uncommon as a Roman name and may have simply filtered into early Germanic consciousness that way too.

Egilhard a Old German name-EGIL + hard "stern" and "hardy." Get, Scand: Eilert.

Eglamour a Appearing first in the fourteenth-century chivalric romance Sir Eglamour d Artois, the name was used by Shakespeare for a character in Two Gentlemen of Verona. It was probably invented by the writer of Sir Eglamour, perhaps inspired by EGLANTINE, but altered to hint strongly at the Fr: [amour "love."

Eglantine Y Old French: aiglente < L: aculenta "prickly." It is a name of the sweet-briar rose, a type of sweet-scented wild rose which is particularly fragrant after rain. The sweet briar symbolizes poetry, and was a particular favorite among the Elizabethans. It was regarded as the personal flower of Queen Elizabeth I; on her accession day (November 17), her subjects were encouraged to wear garlands of Eglantine (at that time of the year, it is covered in bright red rosehips). It features particularly in Nicholas Hilliard's miniature portrait Young Man Among the Roses (1588). Whether the medieval use of the name was a direct adoption of the name of the plant or not is not known, but given its appearance first in literature, it seems likely. Revived 19th C. Var: Aiglentine, Eglentine, Eglentyne, Eglantina, Eglentyne. Bearers: Eglentyne, a character in Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales; Eglantine, a character in Kathryn Lasky's Guardians of Ga Hoole series (2003-08).

Egon The origins of Egon aren't entirely clear. It may be a variant of EUGENE. Alternatively, it may be from OG: ecg "sword" or "point." Egon is now most used in Hungary, but is still found elsewhere, particularly Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, but also the ESW. Bearers: Egon Ronay (b. 1915), the food critic; Egon Spengler, a character in the American Ghostbusters movies (1984, 89).

Egremonde 2 An old form of AGRIMONY. "Lord Egremonde" sometimes crops up in fifteenth-century records, referring to Thomas Percy, Baron Egremont (1422-60), who took his title from Egremont in Cumbria.

Egypt Y c~ The allure of Egypt has existed since ancient times. Both the Ancient Greeks and Romans were fascinated by all things Egyptian, and this love affair was reawakened following Ancient Egypt's rediscovery at the end of the nineteenth century. Since that time, its history and culture make Egypt's one of the favorite of all world cultures past and present. It is particularly well known for its beliefs and practices surrounding death and

for its many animal-headed Gods and Goddesses, who symbolize so well the symbiosis of the natural and human worlds; the mortal and immortal. Renowned even in ancient times for being a repository of ancient, arcane wisdom, by the Middle Ages, Egypt-which at the time was purely a place of legend-was virtually synonymous with alchemy-and magic. For the Egyptians, magic and religion went hand in hand, the one indivisible from the other-a perfect synthesis. Egypt acquired its name from Aegyptus/Aiguptos in Greek-a descendant of Io famed for his fifty sons, all but one of whom were murdered by the fifty daughters of his twin brother Danaus. Ancient scholars believed it derived from Aigaiou huptios "below the Aegean," but the true etymology is from the Egyptian Hwt "house" + M "soul" + ptH "Ptah"-"Home of the Soul of Ptah." "This was the Egyptian name of the city of Memphis. 19th C.

Eha 2 Estonian name-eha "sunset glow" and "dusk."

Eibhlin Y Irish Gaelic form of AVELINA. Avelina was taken to Ireland by the Normans and rooted itself firmly there. Later, it was often rendered in English as Ellen or Helen, to such an extent that some believe it derives from one of these. Linguistically, however, it is clear the origin is Avelina. Anglicized as EILEEN. Var: Aibhlin, Eibhlinn, Eilin; Eibhleann (mod).

Eiddew a' 2 Welsh: eiddew "ivy."

Eidothea Y A daughter of Proteus, who told Odysseus how he could get Proteus to answer his questions. Gr: eidos "form," "shape," and "appearance" + thea "Goddess."

Eileen ? Anglicized form of EIBHLIN. It spread from Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century. Var: Aileen, Eilene, Ailene, Eileene. Dim: Eily. 'The name has featured more than once in a song, the best known being "Come On Eileen" (1982) by Dexys Midnight Runners.

Eileithya Y The Greek Goddess of childbirth and midwifery. Originally a Cretan Goddess, she was absorbed into the Greek pantheon at an early date. Her name is pre-Greek and the etymology is unknown. 20th C.

Eilfyw c~ Welsh equivalent of AILBHE. Llanefflyw is a small Pembrokeshire parish which usually goes by its English name of St. Elvis, deriving from one of the name's medieval forms, Elfeis. The name has the appearance of deriving from W. ail "another" and "a second" + byw "alive," but this probably demonstrates either the influence of folk-etymology or a deliberate medieval reshaping. In reality, Eilfyw is either a "Welshification" of Ailbhe-or its cognate. Var: Ailfyw, Ailvyw.

Eilidh Y Eilidh is treated as the Scots Gaelic form of HELEN, which is more or less accurate, since the name appears to have developed originally as a diminutive of the Gaelic form of ELEANOR. It was much used in Scotland in the medieval period. Revived 19th C.

Eilir ? c~ Welsh: eilir "butterfly" and "the spring." Alban Eilir is a Druid name for the Spring Equinox. Late 19th C.

Eilis Y Technically speaking, the Irish Gaelic form of ELIZA, but in practice, treated as the Irish form of ELIZABETH. It is sometimes semi-Anglicized as Eilish.

Eilwen Y Welsh name. It may be a variant of AELWEN, or a modern coinage-W: ail "second" or "another" + gwyn. Late 19th C.

Eimyrja Y Old Norse: eimyrja "embers." The name in Norse mythology of one of the two beautiful daughters of Logi. She is the mother of Viking by her father's jarl Vifil, and the grandmother of Ihorstein of The Saga of Ihorstein Viking's Son fame. Var: Einmyrja, Einmyria.

Einar c? Modern Scandinavian form of Old Norse Einarr. The etymology is not entirely clear, but it probably derives from ON: einherjar-the name given to the undead warriors feasting in Valhalla while they wait for Ragnarok (the great last battle of the Gods).

Einion c? A traditional Welsh name usually said to be an adoption of W: einion "anvil," but possibly derived from the Latin Annianus "belonging to Annius"-Annianus being the name of a Roman gens. It was said to have been the name of one of the sons of Cunedda in the fifth century, and it remained in use until the early modern period, giving rise to surnames such as

Beynon, Baynham, Binyon, and Pinnion- all corruptions of ap Einion "son of Einion." Revived 19th C. Var: Enniaun, Ennian, ANIAN, Eynon (hist).

Eir ? Norse Goddess of healing and medicine. ON: eird "clemency" and "mercy." Sometimes Anglicized as EIRA.

Eira y Welsh: eira "snow." Also used as a variant of EIR.

Eirawen Y Welsh: eira "snow" + gwyn-the Welsh equivalent of "Snow White." Early 20th C.

Eirian Y a Welsh: eirian "bright," "brilliant," and "fair." Late 19th C.

Eirianwen y Welsh: eirian "bright," "brilliant," and "fair" + gwyn. Late 19th C.

Eirlys y Welsh: eirlys "snowdrop." Late 19th C.

Erne 2 The name of a legendary Irish princess who gave her name to the river and lough in Northern Ireland, and to the people who lived there- recorded by Ptolemy in the sec and century CE as Iverni. Almost certainly CC: *f-weryon "earth" and "soil," from which ERIU also evolved, as well as the Gaelic fearann "land" and "ground." Var: Erne, Erne.

Eisa Y Old Norse: eisa "glowing embers." One of the daughters of Logi. She and her sister Eimyrja were the fairest women in all the land.

Eithinen Y Welsh: eithinen "gorse."

Eithne y Old variant of AINE. It was borne by more than one figure in myth and legend, such as the wife of Fiacha Finnolach, a high king of Ireland. In the form Eithniu it was the name of a daughter of Balor and mother of Lugh. Later it experienced some confusion with EIBHLIN, but the two names have separate origins. Other variants include Ethne and Aithne, and in the past it was often Anglicized as ENA. Ethni is sometimes used in Wales. It spread to the rest of the ESW in the late nineteenth century. Bearers: Eithne Ni Bhraonain (b. 1961), the Irish singer-songwriter, known as ENYA.

Ekin c? Turkish name-ekin "crop," referring specifically to a crop still in a field. It is also used to mean "culture."

El e Y In modern use, El is generally simply a short form of any name beginning with El-. It is, however, also the name of one of the principal Gods of the Phoenicians, whose name simply meant "(a) God." This is cognate with the word for "(a) God" in other Semitic languages, including Hebrew, Arabic, and Akkadian.

Ela Y Generally, Ela is a variant of ELLA and pronounced "EL-a." However, pronounced "ay-LA" it is also the Cherokee word for "earth."

Elain Y Mostly, Elain is a variant of ELAINE. In Welsh, however, elain means "fawn." Late 19th C.

Elaine ? The name of more than one character of Arthurian Romance. The most significant is Elaine of Astolat or Ascolat-best known as "The Lady of Shalott." An Old French form of HELEN, Elaine first appeared in the medieval Chansons de Geste. Its use by Tennyson in *The Idylls of the King* prompted its take up as a genuine given name in the late nineteenth century. Var: Alaina, Alaine, Alayna, Alayne, ELAIN, Elaina, Elayne (mod). Bearers: Elayne Trakand, a principal character in Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time* series (1990-2011).

Elan Y cc In Welsh mythology, Elan was the name of one of the Daughters of Don, who gave her name to a small river in mid Wales. It may possibly derive from CC: *elan(t)- "doe" and "hind" from which ELAIN also derives. 19th C. Outside Wales Elan is generally treated as just a variant of ELLEN. Occasionally, it is found as a boy's name, presumably as a variant of ELON or simply ELAN without the accent.

Elan 2 a Originally used to describe an impetuous rush (such as of troops), "elan" in English is usually used in an abstract fashion to mean "ardor," "impetuosity," and "vivacity" < Fr: elancer "to dash forward." 20th C.

Elana Y Elana arose in the nineteenth century as a variant of HELENA, albeit through other versions along the way such as ELLEN, ELENA, and

ELAINE. Beginning with the biblical favorite El-, it has since attracted a Hebrew meaning, and is now often treated as a feminine form of ELON.

Elanor Y A variant spelling of ELEANOR. In Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, elanor is the name of a flower which grows in Lothlorien, said to resemble the pimpernel, but with gold and silver flowers. Sindarin: el "star" + anor "sun." The hobbit Samwise Gamgee gave the name to his first-born daughter. Late 20th C.

Elaphaea Y Epithet of Artemis. Originally, it was ALPHAEA, but became Elaphaea through a mistaken belief that it derived from Gr: elaphos "stag." "This was not an unreasonable assumption to make, given the fact that Artemis is the Goddess of hunting. An epithet of Artemis which does genuinely derive from elaphos is Elaphebolia "the deer-shooter."

Elatha cc' In Irish mythology, Elatha is the name of a Formorian prince. By Eriu he was the father of Bres, King of the Tuatha De Danann. Elatha used to visit Eriu by night, crossing the sea to reach her in a silver boat. This has led to speculation that originally he may have been a moon God. He is also believed to be the father of the Dagda-further evidence of his own divinity. 01: elatha "art" and "skill," precursor of Modern Irish ealain. This is intriguing, as another word meaning "art" and "skill" (specifically poetic) in Old Irish is cerd; cognate with the Welsh cerdd-a principal contender for the origin of another deity associated with the moon-Ceridwen. 20th C. Var: Eladha.

Elbereth Y In Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, Elbereth is a name by which the Goddess-like Varda is known. Sindarin: el "star" + bereth "queen" and "spouse." Another of Varda's epithets is Elentari, which occurs in the *Silmarillion* and means "star queen" in Quenya. 20th C.

Elder ' 2 The English name for one of the most important of trees, in Anglo-Saxon times, she was called ELLfERN, and a later Old English form was ELLEN. In the Ogham, her name is Ruis and she rules over the thirteenth month of the Ogham calendar, from November 25 until the Winter Solstice. Known as the "Elder Mother" she is believed to embody the Goddess in her Crone aspect, and has long been associated with magic and Witches, not least because she is also one of the most important and

valuable sources of herbal remedies, being nicknamed a "medicine chest in one tree."The ease in propagation-sticks broken off and planted straight in the soil will often take root and start growing-has ensured that she has become associated with death and rebirth. In late medieval and early modern times, it was believed that Witches could turn themselves into elder trees, and if such a tree was chopped down, the Witch would return to human form bearing the marks of being cut; there are countless other pieces of folklore and myth attached to her.'The surname Elder derives from OE: eldra "more old," and was often used of leaders of communities who had become so by virtue of their age and experience. 18th C.

Elderberry Y The little black berries of the ELDER, which ripen in pendulous clusters in the late summer and early autumn and are a rich source of vitamin C.'They can be eaten raw when fully ripe, but are poisonous when unripe. Related is Elderflower, the name given to the fragrant umbels of elderflowers, which are one of the delights of early midsummer, often used to make elderflower champagne, cordial, and even fritters. They also make an excellent tea, potent in easing cold and flu symptoms, and can be dried to be enjoyed year-round. Early 20th C.

Eldon c~ English surname, deriving from Elvedon in Suffolk and Eldon in Durham. The probable etymology of both is OE: pelf"elf" + denu " (wooded) valley." Var. Aldon, Elden. 17th C.

Eleanor Y Variant of ALIANOR, introduced to Britain in the twelfth century. Var: ELINOR, Eleonora, LEONORA; Elianor (hist). Dim: ELLIE, NELL, NELLIE. Fr: Eleonore, Get: Eleonore. Bearers: Eleanor of Blois (1104-47), the sister of King Stephen of England; Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204), the queen of King Henry II of England; Eleanor of Castille (1241-90), the queen of King Edward I; Eleanor "Ray" Bone (1910-2001), the influential twentieth-century Wiccan, friend of Gerald Gardner, regarded in some circles as the "Matriarch of British Witchcraft." Eleanor Cobham (c. 1400-c. 1453), wife of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester and sister in law of King Henry V, was tried for Witchcraft in 1441 and admitted five of the twenty-eight counts, including burning a wax image of the king-she was exiled to the Isle of Man.

Eleazar e The name of more than one character in the Bible. Heb: "(a) God helped." Var: LAZARUS. 16th C.

Elector a' Greek: elektor "beaming," used specifically to mean "the beaming sun." It was also used specifically of the element of Fire. The English "elector" is unrelated, deriving from L: eligo "to choose." 19th C.

Electra y Greek: elector "bright" and "beaming." The most famous mythological Electra was a daughter of Agamemnon, who aided her brother Orestes in the murder their mother and their mother's lover in order to gain vengeance for their father's death. The story was a favorite in ancient times and featured frequently in Greek tragedy; plays which deal with the theme survive by all three of the great Athenian playwrights-Aeschylus's Libation Bearers (458 BCE), Euripides's Electra (c. 413-410 BCE) and Sophocles's Electra (c. 410-406 BCE). These have gone on to inspire many other versions in more recent times, such as Eugene O'Neill's Mourning Becomes Electra (1931). The closely related Electris is an epithet of the moon. 18th C. Var: Elektra. It: Elettra.

Electron c3' Greek: electron "amber"-it was also used as the name of an alloy of gold and silver, which was popular in the ancient world. In 1897, it was chosen as the name of the sub-atomic particle with a negative electric charge. Related to "electricity," though this is actually a much older word, dating to the seventeenth century, and originally used of objects which attracted lightweight objects (such as dust and fluff) when rubbed.

Elegy c~ ? A type of poem written in an elegiac meter. Originally, elegies were poems or songs of lamentation for someone-or something-dead or lost. Fr: elegie < L: elegia < Gr: elegeia < elegos "song" or "melody." In earliest usage, it referred simply to a song accompanied by a flute; later it acquired the meaning "lament" or "song of mourning." 20th C.

Eleleth o~ Y The name of a spiritual light in Gnosticism, sometimes regarded as an angel. Associated with Sophia. The spiritual lights (also called luminaries) are believed to be androgynous. The etymology is obscure, but may possibly be related to LILITH.

Eleleus Epithet of Dionysus. Gr: eleleu-an exclamation used as a cry of pain, a battle cry, and a ceremonial chant at the Oschophoria, a festival in honor of Dionysus.

Elena Y A form of HELEN used in many languages, including Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian, and Russian-where it is also transcribed as YELENA. The name was also found in Britain in the medieval and early modern period, though usually in Latin records representing Helen or ELLEN. It has been used as a genuine given name in the ESW since at least the nineteenth century. Bearers: Elena Gilbert, heroine of L.J. Smith's *The Vampire Diaries* (1991-).

Eleri Y Traditional Welsh name, borne in legend by a daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog. Later hagiographers turned her into a man, but most seem to consider her female, and the name is only ever used for girls. Perhaps not so coincidentally, Eleri is also the name of a river in Wales, also known as the Leri. It is highly likely that St. Eleri is in fact the Goddess or genius loci of this river. Although in general the meaning of the name is dismissed as unknown, there is a case to be made for a derivation from CC: *f-weryon- which also gives the Irish ERIU and probably also EIRNE. The latter is also the name of a mythical princess bestowed upon a river. The first element could be the Welsh intensifying prefix el-. Revived 19th C.

Eleusina 2 Epithet of Demeter and Persephone, deriving from Eleusis, the site of a major sanctuary dedicated to them and home of the Eleusinian Mysteries. It shares its etymology with ELYSIA. Var: Eleusinia.

Eleutheria Y Greek: eleutheria "liberty." Eleutheria was personified as a Goddess in ancient times, being the first incarnation of the Goddess Liberty. 17th C.

Eleutherius c~ Epithet of both Dionysus and Zeus. Gr: eleutherios "the deliverer." 17th C.

Elf c 2 English "elf" derives from OE: eelf, cognate with ON: dlfr. Both words denoted a supernatural being with considerable magical powers. Largely now treated as synonymous with "fairy," the two are quite distinct in origin, with elves developing firmly within Teutonic tradition and

folklore, while fairies arose from the Classical. The Old English word was used freely as an element in Anglo-Saxon compound names. IElfa-a hypocoristic form of such names and plain iElf are attested as male names in their own right. Early 20th C.

Elfed c' The Welsh name for Elmet, the name of an old Brythonic kingdom which lay in what is now largely West Yorkshire. It derives from the same root as W: elfydd "world," "country," and "region"-CC: *albiyo- from which ALBION and ALBA, etc., also derive. Elfed is also an Old Welsh word meaning "the fall" and "autumn"; Alban Elfed is the name used by many Druids for the Autumnal Equinox. Late 19th C.

Elffin c' In Welsh mythology, Elffin is the foster-father of Taliesin. He adopted Taliesin after finding him as a baby in his father's salmon-weir. Sometimes Anglicized as Elphin. Possibly derived from W: ail "second" or "another" + jfun "breath." Late 20th C.

Elfie 2 Arising as a short form of names such as ELFREDA, Elfie has been used independently since the nineteenth century.

Elfin c~ Superficially, Elfin seems to be an adoption of English elfin "elf-like" or "belonging to the elves." However, in the case of the seventh-century king of Strathclyde, it is almost certainly cognate with ELFFIN. "The Elfin Knight" is a traditional Scottish ballad, dating to at least the seventeenth century. It involves an elf-knight who gives a series of impossible tasks to his would-be lady; she responds with a list of her own- and thus wins her knight. The well-known folk-song "Scarborough Fair" is another version of it. The adjective has probably been in the mind of most people who have used Elfin since the nineteenth century.

Elfleda Y Latinized form of Old English IElf\$aed-pelf "elf" + --,e "clean," "pure," and "beautiful." Borne by a late seventh-/early eighth-century saint, as well as one of the daughters of King Alfred the Great. Revived 19th C. Var: Elfled.

Elfreda Y Latinized form of Old English fElfthryth (IElfpryy)-celf "elf" + biyd "strength." It was the name of a daughter of King Alfred the Great, as well as the mother of King Ethelred the Unready. Var: Elfrid, Alfrid,

Elfrida, Alfrida. There is some evidence that the name survived the Norman Conquest-possibly being confused in medieval records with ALFRED- and may be the source of ALFRED.

Elfric c Old English: IElfric-~~elf~~"elf" + ric. In the early Middle Ages, it was confused with the similar IElric-~~el~~"noble" + ric. Both names are responsible for surnames such as Aldridge and Elrick. Revived 19th C. Var: Alfric.

Elfwyn Y Old English: IElfwynn-~~elf~~"elf" + Wynn "joy," "rapture," and "delight." Borne by a grand-daughter of King Alfred the Great, who lived in the late ninth and early tenth centuries.

Elgan Welsh name-intensifying prefix el- + gan "bright." It occurs in texts of the ninth and tenth centuries, and was resurrected in the early twentieth century.

Elgar Elgar is found in the Middle Ages as a late form of Old English IElgar-~~pef~~"elf" + gar "spear." By and large, however, its use is relatively modern and an adoption of the surname. This comes not just from /Elgar but also its Norse cognate Alfgeirr, as well as Old English Ealdgar-tald "old" + gar, and fEtelgar-e,~~el~~"noble" + gar. Var: IElfger, tElgar, Eylgar, Algar, Alger (hist).

Elgiva Y Latinized form of Old English EElfgifu-aelf "elf" + gifu "gift," or/and IE3elgifu-~~el~~"noble" + gifu. The names were popular in Anglo-Saxon times, borne by a number of queens and princesses. There is evidence to suggest that it survived in use here and there in forms such as ELVY, ELVIE, and Elvey. Var: Elveva, Elviva, Alviva, Aileve, Alveve, Elveve (hist).

Elhaearn c~ Old Welsh name, probably simply a variant of AELHAEARN, but possibly slightly different in origin-intensifying prefix el- + haearn "iron."

Elham Y Persian name-alham "inspiration" and "revelation." Var: Elhama.

Eli Y The male Eli was originally a biblical name meaning "height" or "high" (and thus "exalted") in Hebrew. In recent times, it has frequently been touted with the meaning "my God." But this is a modern creation, and written quite differently in the Hebrew script. 16th C. The female Eli is a short form of names such as ELIZABETH and ELEANOR. Bearers: Eli, the vampire child in John Ajvide Lindqvist's novel *Let the Right One In* (2008).

Eliana Y An obscure early Catholic saint. Latin Aeliana "belonging to Aelius." Aelius was the name of a Roman gens of unknown meaning, although it is just possible it is related to *alius* "other" and "another." It is, however, almost certainly not related to Gr: *helios* "sun," although it is possible that in Roman times it was considered such, just as many consider it to be today. Aelius was a very common name from the second century CE because it was the family name of the Emperor Hadrian, and by this period it was customary for many of those newly acquiring Roman citizenship-particularly the auxiliaries in the Roman army when their service was completed-to take the family name of the Emperor. In the twentieth century, it has acquired a Modern Hebrew meaning like some other other El- names. In Eliana's case, it is "my God has answered." Used in the ESW from the late nineteenth century. Fr: Eliane.

Elias cc Greek form of ELIJAH. It was used in the Middle Ages, and quickly developed into the vernacular form ELLIS, acquiring the diminutive ELLIOT along the way. By the time of the Reformation, Elias itself, however, had become rare. The Puritans resurrected both the Greek and the Hebrew Elijah. Interestingly, there is strong evidence to suggest that the similarity in appearance between Elias and the Greek Helios was capitalized upon during the Christianizing period; shrines to Helios were often situated in high places, and many-if not all-of these became sanctuaries and monasteries dedicated to St. Elias. Bearers: Elias Ashmole (1617-92), the astrologer, alchemist, and antiquarian who gave his name to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England; Elias Howe (1819-67), the inventor of the sewing machine. Fin: Eelis, Eljas, It: Elia, Ger: Elias, Sp: Elias, Rom: Ilie, Cro, Serb: Ilija, Ru: ILYA.

Elicia 2 Essentially a variant of ALICIA, Elicia can also be regarded as the feminine form of ELICIUS. It may well have been treated as such when it was used for a character in the Spanish *La Celestina* (1499) by Fernando de Rojas, in which most characters have names taken from Classical Antiquity. 19th C.

Elicius c Epithet of Jupiter in his capacity as God of omens. L: elicio "to draw out" and "to elicit," referring to the fact it was believed that celestial signs and omens were obtained from him. The verb was also used in magical language to mean "to conjure up" a departed spirit by magic. 16th C.

Elidir c~ Old Welsh name. As Elidurus, it occurs as the name of a legendary king of Britain in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* (c. 1136). Anglicized as Elidor-such as at Stackpole Elidor in Pembrokeshire, Wales-and Elidore. The etymology isn't entirely clear; while the second element is almost certainly W: dur "steel" which is also found in Peredur, the first is fuzzier. The name died out in the Middle Ages, but was revived in the nineteenth century. Var: Elidyr. Bearers: Elidir Sais (c. 1190-c. 1240), the Welsh poet. *Elidor* (1965) is a novel by Alan Garner, in which Elidor is the name of another world.

Elihu c? Biblical name. Heb: "he is (a) God" or "(a) God is he." 16th C. Bearers: Elihu Yale (1649-1721), the merchant and philanthropist, after whom Yale University is named.

Elijah ' The name of one of the best-known biblical prophets. Heb: "Yahweh is (a/my) God." In the Greek form ELIAS, it was used in the Middle Ages, with Elijah taken up in the sixteenth century. Bearers: Elijah Wood (b. 1981), the American actor; Elijah Baley, a character in Isaac Asimov's Robot series (1950-85).

Elinor Y Variant of ELEANOR, which evolved in the seventeenth century. It has become fashionable in some circles to call it a Hebrew name meaning "God is light," but this is rather like saying Ella is a Finnish name because in Finnish it means "stove." Certainly, in the Hebrew language, the collection of sounds that make up Elinor can be interpreted as "(a) God is light" (or "my God is light"), and no doubt it is now being bestowed with

this "meaning" in people's minds, particularly in Israel and the Judeo-Christian community. But it is a purely retrospective meaning and nothing to do with the name's actual origin. Bearers: Elinor Brent-Dyer (1894-1969), the British novelist; Elinor Dashwood, the heroine of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* (1811).

Eliphalet c? Biblical name. Heb: "(a/my) God is release." 16th C. Var: Eliphelet.

Eliphas c? Variant of ELIPHAZ. Eliphas Levi was the pseudonym taken by the French magical theorist Alphonse Louis Constant (1810-75) under which he published his books. It seems to be a partial anagram and reworking of his given names to create a Hebrew-looking name. His work had a considerable influence on both the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and Aleister Crowley. It is possible that J. K. Rowling had Eliphas in mind when she created a character with the name Elphias-Elphias Doge in the Harry Potter series.

Eliphaz e Biblical name. The etymology isn't entirely clear; it may mean "my God is (pure) gold" in Hebrew. Its take up as a given name seems to have been quite late, dating to the end of the seventeenth century at the earliest. Var: ELIPHAS, Eliaphas, Eliphus, Elesephaz.

Elisa Y Essentially a form of ELIZA; in the ESW, it is simply a variant, while in numerous languages, including German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese, it is the equivalent.

Elise Y Originally, Elise was the Dutch and Scandinavian form of ELISA-and thus also of ELIZA-also used as variant of Elisa in Germany. It found its way into the ESW in the nineteenth century, and has invariably ended up by and large being pronounced with just two syllables-like the French Elise-instead of the original three. Var: Elyse, Alyse-although this is a name with ambiguous status, which could also be regarded as a variant of ALICE. *Fur Elise* (1810) is a bagatelle for piano by Beethoven. The Lotus Elise is a small European sports car which has been manufactured since 1996.

Elisena Y Princess Elisena of England is the heroine of the late medieval romance *Amadis of Gaul*. The origin of the name is not known for certain, but it is probably a variant of ALISON. 19th C.

Elisha e 2 Originally, Elisha was a male biblical name. Heb: "(a/my) God saves/delivers." 16th C. In the twentieth century, it was adopted as a female name, no doubt inspired by its resemblance to ALICIA.

Elissa Y Used by Virgil in *The Aeneid* (c. 29-19 BCE) as an alternative name for the Carthaginian Queen Dido. Virgil acquired it from a fourth-century BCE Greek source. It is usually described as being the Greek form of a hypothetical Phoenician name *Elishat, assumed to have some connection with EL. This part is almost certainly true. El's name means simply "(a) God," and Elissa's true origin is probably directly from the Phoenician word *lylit* meaning "Goddess." This is cognate with the Akkadian: *ilutu*-a generic term meaning "Goddess"-and the Arabic *Al-Lat*, the name of an Arabian Goddess-which became ALITTA in Greek. Here we come close to Elissa, for the Greeks treated the suffix -itta interchangeable with -issa, and it would not have taken much for the Greeks to have come up with Elissa from *lylit* in just the same way they got Alitta from *Al-Lat*. Elissa also features in Boccaccio's *Decameron*. It is probable that Boccaccio interpreted the name as meaning the same thing as ELISHA or ELIZABETH. 17th C.

Elixir e ? Originally, an alchemical term referring to a preparation-be it a powder, liquid, or vapor-which could turn metals into gold. It was also used of a potion or essence which could prolong life indefinitely and as such was often referred to as the *elixir vitae* or "Elixir of life." It has since come to mean any remedy for a disease or to refer to a person or thing's quintessence. Ar: *al-iksir* < Gr: *xenon* "desiccative powder" < *xeros* "dry." 20th C.

Eliza y Short form of ELIZABETH. It was first used in the sixteenth century, largely by poets writing about Queen Elizabeth I. By the eighteenth century, it was in independent use. *Eliza* (1754) is an opera by Thomas Arne. Bearers: Eliza Doolittle, who first featured in George Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion* (1913), which became the musical *My Fair Lady* (1956).

Elizabeth Y Elizabeth belongs to a small, select club of names which have been in constant, common usage since the Late Middle Ages. L: Elizabetha < Gr: Elisabet < Heb: Elisheba "(a) God is my oath." In the past it was often interpreted as meaning "(a) God is my satisfaction." It was first used as a given name in the thirteenth century, although in that period the usual form was ISABELLA. Var: Elisabeth; Elyzabeth, Lizbeth (mod). Dim: ELIZA, ELISA, ELSA, ELSIE, Lib, LIBBY, LISA, LIZ, LIZA, Lizzie, Lizzy, LILIBET, LILY, Bet, BETH, BETTY, BETSY, BESS, Bessie, BUFFY, SISI, Tetty, Tetsy, Tibby, ZIZI. Cz: Alzbeta; Eli"ska (dim), W: BETHAN (dim), Sc Ga: Ealasaid, It Ga: EILIS, Ger: Bettina (dim), Fin: Eliisa (dim), Est: Eliisabet, Haw: Elikapeka, Fin, Scand: Elisabet, Rom: Elisabeta, Port: Elisabete, Dut, Ger, Scand: Elisabeth, Fr: Elisabeth; BABETTE, BETTE (dim), It: Elisabetta, Basque: Elixabete, Alb, Slv: Elizabeta, Lat: Elizabete, Ru: Elizaveta, Lizaveta, Yelizaveta, Sc: ELSPETH, Lith: Elibieta, Pol: Elibieta, Hun: Erzsebet; Bozsi, Zsoka (dim), Ger: Ilsa, use (dim), Serb: Yelsaveta, Dut: Liesbeth, Lijsbeth; Lies, Liesje (dim), Arm: Yeghsapet, Ukr: Yelysaveta, Scand: Lisbet, Ger, Nor: Lisbeth. Bearers: Elizabeth Woodville (c. 1437-1492), queen of King Edward IV and mother of Elizabeth of York (1466-1503), the queen of King Henry VII-her granddaughter was Queen Elizabeth I (1533- 1603); Elizabeth Stuart, Queen of Bohemia (1596-1662), "the Winter Queen"; Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (1900-2002), wife of King George VI; Queen Elizabeth II (b. 1926); Elizabeth Pepper daCosta (1923-2005), the editor and publisher of The Witches Almanac; Elizabeth Demdike and her daughter Elizabeth Device, two of the Pendle Witches, tried and executed in 1612; Elizabeth Sawyer (d. 1621), an elderly woman hanged for Witchcraft, whose tale inspired Dekker's 1621 play The Witch of Edmonton; Elizabeth Howe (c. 1635- 92) and Elizabeth Proctor (1652-aft. 1703), both accused of Witchcraft during the Salem Witch trials-both were found guilty, Howe was executed, but because Proctor was pregnant she was granted a stay of execution, which saved her life.

Elkanah Biblical name. Heb: "(a) God has created" or "(a) God has purchased." 16th C. Bearers: Elkanah Settle (1648-1724), the English poet.

Elke 2 German and Dutch pet-form of Adelheid (see Adelaide). Found in the ESW from the nineteenth century.

Ella ? Deriving from ALIA, Ella-and its variants Ela and Ala-was not uncommon during the Middle Ages. In many languages, ella means "she," while ela also happens to be the Old Irish for "swan," and ala means "wing" in Latin. Ella fell out of use after the fourteenth century, and was revived in the nineteenth. Bearers: Ella Fitzgerald (1917-96), the American singer; Ella Dee, a Witch in the British television drama Hex (2004-05); Ella Enchanted (1997) is a novel by Gail Carson Levine.

Ellabella Y Combination of ELLA and BELLA.19th C. It featured as the name of the ship in the 1944 film Dixie Jamboree.

Ellrcrn Y cc Old English: ellrern "elder (tree)"; cognate with Old German Ellern.

Ellen ? English vernacular form of HELEN, in use since the Middle Ages; the usual forms of Helen and HELENA in that period being ELENA, Elen, Elene, Ellin, and Elfin. Elfin and Elen remain in use in Wales. Ellen is also an Old English word meaning "elder (tree)," deriving from ELLfERN. Bearers: Ellen Bierley (fl. 1612), one of the Samlesbury Witches; Ellen Evert Hopman, the Druid writer and herbalist. Var: Elyn, Ellyn, ELAN, ELANA, ELAINE.

Ellery c' Y Late medieval variant spelling of HILARY. Reinforced from the sixteenth century by the surname which derived from it.

Ellie y Diminutive form of ELEANOR and ELLEN, used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century. Var: Elly. Bearers: Eleanor "Ellie" Greenwich (1940-2009), the American singer-songwriter; Eleanor "Miss Ellie" Ewing, a major character in the American soap opera Dallas (1978-91).

Elliot c~ 2 Elliot developed in the Middle Ages as a petform of ELIAS. The -ias ending was treated as simply a dispensable suffix, and the medieval dim. suffix -ot was added accordingly. The name has been in use ever since, though much of its use after the sixteenth century is likely to be as an adoption of the surname derived from it. The variant Elliott features in the film E. T. (1982), and most use of the name post-dates this. Var: Elliott, Eliot, Eliott, Elyot. Bearers: Elyot Chase, a principal character in Noel

Coward's *Private Lives* (1930); Elliot Reid, a female doctor in the American comedy-drama *Scrubs* (2001-10).

Ellis ' Y Medieval form of ELIAS. It was very popular in its day, its popularity attested today by the frequency of the surname which derives from it. Like the closely related Elliot, it survived into the Early Modern period, being reinforced thereafter by the use of the surname as a given name. As a female name, Ellis represents a fairly late variant of ALICE, and is found from the seventeenth century. W: Elis. Bearers: Ellis Peters, one of the pen-names of novelist Edith Pargeter (1913-95).

Elm c~ Y The English word for the elm derives from the Germanic, but is cognate with L: *umus* and CC: **l(Emo-*, from which derive OI: *lem* and MW: *llwyfen*. There are a number of well-known species, such as the wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) and the North American slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), the bark of which is highly valued for its medicinal properties. Usually when people speak of the elm it is the field or common elm (*Ulmus campestris*) they mean, which has been tragically all but wiped out since the late twentieth century by Dutch elm disease. In folklore, the elm is considered to be rather a treacherous tree, notorious for dropping branches. In the past it was much used in folk-medicine and the bark was eaten in Europe in times of famine in much the same way as the bark of the slippery elm in North America. In the British Isles, it is much associated with the elves, hence the folk-name ELVEN, while in Norse mythology, the first woman EMBLA was created from an elm tree. Examples of Elm as a given name date back to the seventeenth century, but these almost certainly represent the transferred use of the surname. This derives from the elm though, so it little matters much. It is sometimes encountered being used as a short form of ELMER and ELMA.

Elma Y In Holland and Germany, Elma arose as a short form of WILHELMINA. In the ESW however, Elma first developed as a variant of ALMA, while in America, it was taken up as a feminine form of ELMER. It is possible some also envisaged a connection with ELM. In Turkish, *elma* means "apple." Bearers: Princess Elma, a giantess in *The Hungry Tiger of Oz* (1926), written by Ruth Plumly Thompson.

Elmas Y Turkish name-elmas "diamond."

Elmer e English surname, which derived from AYLMER. 17th C. In America, it was first used generally in honor of Jonathan Elmer (1745-1817) and his brother Ebenezer Elmer (1752-1843), who were prominent during the American War of Independence. In Britain, the name is firmly associated with the cartoon character Elmer Fudd, who first appeared in 1940. Var: Elmore. Bearers: Elmer Bernstein (1922-2004), the American composer.

Elmira 2 Variant of ALMIRA, used by Handel in his opera *Floridante* (1721). Elmire-a French form-appeared in Moliere's play *Tartuffe* (1664). For some reason, there are a number of towns and cities in North America with the name, such as Elmira, New York, which is home to a noted liberal arts college. Mid-18th C.

Elmo e Alternative name for St. Erasmus, deriving from the Italian Ermo, a short form of Erasmo-the Italian form of ERASMUS. Best known in English in the expression "St. Elmo's Fire"-a type of discharge encountered during electrical storms when the ionisation caused by the electric field creates luminous plasma but not lightning. Because a ship is the only "grounded" thing for miles around on the open sea, it attracts electrical activity, which is why St. Elmo's Fire is witnessed more commonly on ships at sea than on land, and is most common at the upper ends of the masts of ships, which are basically acting like lightning conductors. As St. Elmo is the patron saint of sailors, the phenomenon was named after him. In the ESW, Elmo has seen most use in America, where it is largely treated as a variant of ELMER. It is now much associated with a muppet on *Sesame Street* (1969-).

Elnath c? Traditional name of Beta Tauri, the secondbrightest star in Taurus. Ar: an-nath "the butting (of the bull)"; nath also means "battering ram."

Elodia 2 Spanish and Italian name used in honor of a ninth-century saint who is usually called Alodia. The etymology of this is obscure.'The favorite derivation generally given is OG: ala "all" + od "riches. "'This is plausible, but such a name is unknown in the Germanic lands. If it really is Germanic in origin, it would seem more likely to have developed from the well-attested HELEWISE. But there is another, more intriguing option which is

largely over-looked-that it may in fact be a corruption of HERODIAS.
Used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. Fr: Eloieie. "To Elodie"
(1904) is a poem by Irish poet John Todhunter.

Eloisa Y Latinate form of ELOISE. Alexander Pope's "Eloisa to Abelard"
(1717) was probably responsible for its use in the ESW from the eighteenth
century.

Eloise Y Usual form of HELEWISE used today in the ESW, taken from the
French Eloise. It was introduced in the nineteenth century. Kay'lthompson's
Eloise books (1955-59) and the Hollies song "Dear Eloise" (1967) did much
to raise the name's profile in the latter twentieth century. Eloise was also the
name of the heroine in John Christopher's Tripods series (1967-68). Var:
Eloise.

Elon c Biblical. Heb: elan "oak." 18th C.

Elordi ? cc Basque: elordi "hawthorn grove."

Eloy cc Spanish form of Eligius, a Late Latin name said to have derived
from L: eligo "to pick out" and "to choose." It was borne by a sixth-century
French saint, the patron saint of horses (and also goldsmiths and coin
collectors). Used in the ESW from the nineteenth century. Fem: Eligia. Fr:
Eloi. In H. G. Wells's Time Machine (1895), the Eloi are one of the two
species evolved from the human race, almost a million years into the future.
They are eaten by the other species the Morlocks.

Elpis Y Greek: elpis "hope." The personification of hope, revered by the
Greeks as a Goddess. 19th C.

Elrond c~ The wise half-elven Lord of Rivendell of Tolkiens The Hobbit
and The Lord of the Rings. Tolkien mentioned more than one meaning for
the name-"star-dome," "vault of stars," and "elf of the cave." Sindarin: el
"star" and rond "cave roof," "vaulted arch" or "vaulted roof"-which more or
less explains how the meanings above came about. Latter 20th C.

Elroy cc Variant of LEROY, which developed in America in the late
nineteenth century.

Elsa 2 German and Scandinavian pet-form of ELIZABETH. Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century, and often confused with AILSA. Var: Else, Ilsa, Ilse. Bearers: Elsa Beskow (1874-1953), the Swedish writer and illustrator of children's books with strong natural themes, such *Children of the Forest* (1910) and *The Sun Egg* (1932).

Elsie Y Originally a Scottish pet-form of ELIZABETH, Elsie spread to the rest of the ESW in the late nineteenth century. The surname Elsie is from OE: IElsige < <elf"elf" + sige "victory". Var: Elsey, Elcy. Bearers: Elsie J. Oxenham (1880-1960), the British novelist.

Elska 2 Old Norse: elska "love."

Elspeth Y Scottish form of ELIZABETH, used generally in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Elspeth McEwen, strangled and burned for Witchcraft in Kirkcudbright in 1698; Elspeth Reoch, tried under the Witchcraft laws for "secund sight" in the Orkney Isles in 1616. She confessed (no doubt under torture) that a "farie man" who came to her told her, "he wald lerne her to ken and sie ony thing she wald desyre." Var: Elspet. Dim: Elspie, ELSIE.

Eltanin c~ The brightest star in the constellation Draco; its scientific name is Gamma Draconis. Ar: al-tannin "the dragon."

Elton cc English surname, from any of the places called Elton across England. OE: cel "eel" or cetheling "prince" + tun. 17th C. Bearers: Elton John (b. 1947), the English singersongwriter-whose birth name was Reginald Dwight.

Eluned Y Old Welsh name, borne by an alleged fifthcentury saint (one of the daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog), who is also known as Eiliwedd, Eiluned, Elyned, ALMEDA, Almedha, Alud, and ANGER. Like Winifred, she is said to have spurned the advances of a Pagan prince, who took such umbrage with the rejection that he chopped her head off. In Eluned's case, it rolled down a hill and a spring sprang up on the spot where it came to rest. All pretty suggestive that Eluned, like Winifred, is in reality a Goddess. The site of St. Eluned's spring was a place of pilgrimagenear Slwch Tump hill-fort in Brecon-but it was destroyed during the Reformation. By the late

seventeenth century, little remained of it except an old yew tree. St. Eluned's feast day is August 1-"Gwyl Awst" in Wales-further indicative of divine origins.'The etymology of her name is unfortunately quite muddy, but the most likely option is that at its base is either the Welsh eilio "to compose" or eilun "image" and "likeness," used of objects that are worshipped or revered, such as icons and cult statues.'This word itself arose as a combination of ail "second" and llun "picture."The plural is eilunod, but this is probably coincidental. A clue to the true source of the -ed ending of the name lies in the old form Eiliwedd; the -wedd almost certainly represents gwedd "aspect," "form," and "appearance." It was used in much the same way as we now use "figure" and "looks"-with positive associations of beauty.'Thus the original form of Eluned

was probably *Eilunwedd, carrying a sense along the lines of "iconic beauty." It has been suggested that her name is the source of Luned of the Mabinogion and thus also of LYNETTE of Tennyson's "Gareth and Lynette" in the Idylls of the King. Revived 19th C.

Elvan a' 2 Cornish: elvan < elven "to spark." A name given to any extremely hard rock that is unbreakable with picks, etc., such as whinstone. Elvan is also a Turkish boy's nameelvan "colors," "many-colored," and "multicolored."

Elven Y c~ Obsolete English word meaning "female elf." It was resurrected by Tolkien as an adjective meaning "elfin," i.e. "of the elves." It is also a folk-name for the ELM, and an English surname-a variant of ALVIN.

Elvery ' Y English surname, a variant of Affray and Alfrey (see Aphra).18th C.

Elvie Y c? Elvie originated in the nineteenth century as a pet-form of ELVIRA, but there is evidence to suggest that it was used as a variant of ELVY. As a male name, Elvie represents an adoption of the surname-also a variant of Elvy.

Elvira Y Originally a Spanish name. Its origins are not entirely clear, but the most plausible theory is that it derived from ALBREDA.'The loss of the "d" is comparable to its disappearance in the Medieval English vernacular

form of the name-AUBREY. Some prefer to try to derive it from OG: al a "all" + wer "true," but there is no trace of such a name in other Germanic lands, while Albreda in its many forms was common and widespread. Further compelling evidence is the fact that the wife of Roger II, King of Sicily (c. 1095-1154) is known as Elvira, Alberada, and Alberie-the latter two known variants of Albreda. Whatever its origins, Elvira was a literary favorite of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; Elvira (1667) was a comedy by English polymath George Digby, 2nd Earl of Bristol (1612-77) and the title of another play by Scottish dramatist David Mallet of 1763. More recently, Elvira became the (ghostly) heroine of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* (1941). The name also features in a number of operas, most notably Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Elvira, *Mistress of the Dark* (1988) is comedy-horror film featuring the character Elvira who hosted the television show *Elvira's Movie Macabre* (1981-93). Elvaira is a Romani form.

Elvis c' English surname. First used as a given name in the nineteenth century. Some of its use by the end of that century was probably as a variant of Elvin, ALVIN, and Alvis- which were moderately more popular during much of the period. It is one of those names which would probably have fallen off the radar a long time ago, had it not been borne by Elvis Presley (1935-77). The origin of the surname itself is not all that clear. In 1881, it was heavily localized around the Wash (the estuary of the River Great Ouse in England), and it seems to have been used interchangeably with another surname-Elves. It would be nice to derive this from OE: pelf"elf"-and there is an outside chance this might be the source-but a comparison of the distribution pattern with the more common surname Elwes demonstrates a considerable overlap between the two, supporting the hypothesis that Elves and Elvis are simply variants of Elwes. Elwes derives from HELEWISE. Elvis is also one of the variant forms of the name of the shadowy Irish saint AILBHE. But it is highly unlikely that the adoption of Elvis as a given name in nineteenth-century America was anything to do with it; such Old Irish names were rarely taken up as given names before the mid-twentieth century at the earliest-even in Ireland. Appropriating surnames, on the other hand, even fairly unusual ones, was something of a national hobby for the nineteenth-century American, as it still is today, especially when they contain "fashionable" letters and sounds, which was certainly the case with Elvis.

Elvy Y cc Late form of ELGIVA, found in isolated use from the sixteenth century. It is also one of the forms the surname which derived from Elgiva took, and as a result also occurs as a male name from the seventeenth century. Var: ELVIE.

Elwy e 2 A river in Denbighshire, Wales, which features in the Welsh name for the city of St. Asaph-Llanelwy. The second element -wy is common in the names of Welsh rivers. The first element is less clear, but the most likely candidate is W: ail "a second" and "another." This fits quite well, as the River Elwy joins the larger River Clwyd at St. Asaph, so could be regarded as the "second river." 19th C.

Elymas G~ In the New Testament, Elymas is the name of a sorcerer who was allegedly struck blind by Paul of Tarsus. The word used to describe him in the Latin text is magus (which would appear to be an acceptable occupation in the Bible, as long as you are bearing expensive gifts and following stars). The tale actually sounds a bit like something out of a Harry Potter book, but it is Paul casting spells, not Elymas. The name's etymology is difficult, but it seems most likely to be derived from either the Aramaic haloma "dreamer" or halima "powerful." Elymas is also called Bar-Jesus, which is translated as "son of Jesus" for effect-conveniently ignoring the fact that while Jesus is a name reserved now for the Christian God, it was in fact one of the commonest names in that part of the world at the time, in its true Aramaic form-Yeshua.

Elysia Y Elysium was the Latin form of Gr: Elusion the name given to the part of the Underworld reserved for initiates of the Mysteries of Eleusis. It seems probable, but not certain, that Elysium and Eleusis share the same origin. Deriving from Gr: erkhomai "to come," elusis-also occurring as eleusis-carries the prosaic meaning "step." But a credible and alluring alternative explanation is that its actual origins lie with another Greek word-enelusios "struck by lightning"; to enelusios was a name given to places set apart from worldly uses because they had been struck by lightning. A further intriguing option is that the roots of Elysium actually lie with the Egyptian: jArw "rush," a reference to sxt jArw the "fields of rushes," which was a similar concept to Elysium in Egyptian religion, ruled over by Osiris. Given the long history of trade between Greece and Egypt,

it is perfectly plausible that this notion would find its way into the Greek belief system. Both Greek and Latin have adjectival forms-Gr: elusios, L: elysius-which were used of Elysium and its queen, Persephone. In one of Martial's epigrams, for instance, she is called Elysia puella "the Elysian maiden." In English "Elysia" is now frequently used interchangeably with "Elysium." Although its original use was quite specific, it has come into general use to mean "paradise," passing, largely without hint of irony, into Christian language and iconography too. In some cases Elysia has been used as a variant of ALICIA or even ELIZA, but it is clear that Elysium was intended by many users-a use with solid classical credentials. 17th C. Var: Elisia, Elizia, Elyzia.

Elysian Y English adjective meaning "pertaining to Elysium" or "resembling Elysium"-hence "blessed" and "glorious" (see Elysia). The word "Elysian" is most familiar in the expression "Elysian Fields," often used as a synonym of Elysium itself This was true in ancient times also, when Elysium was frequently referred to as campi Elysii. 19th C. Var: Elisian.

Elyson c~ Anglicized form of Elusion, the original Greek form of Elysium (see Elysia). It is occasionally used as a variant spelling of Elysium.

Emanaia Y A Romani girl's name; almost certainly a corruption of ERMINIA or a related name.

Emanuel The usual English form of Immanuel. Meaning "(a) God is with us." "This is what the prophet Isaiah said would be the name of the messiah." The fact that Jesus clearly wasn't called Immanuel didn't keep Christians from declaring that he was the messiah; a fine detail usually brushed aside or explained away as "allegorical" or "symbolic." 16th C. Dim: Mannie, Manny. It: Emanuele, Fr: Emmanuel, Port: Manoel, Sp: Manuel. Bearers: Emmanuel Kant (1724- 1804), the highly influential German philosopher; Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772), the Swedish-born scientist, psychic, and Christian mystic whose work was influential in Freemasonry and the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.

Ember Y 6 English "ember" derives from either OE: cemer3e or ON: eimyrja "embers." "The smoldering remains of a dying fire are symbolic of death and rebirth; fires are rekindled from embers, the phoenix reborn, and

as such, they are also a symbol of hope. Embers have long been used for divination in many cultures, and it is easy to understand how; the mesmeric quality of glowing embers is known to anyone who has ever spent the night in front of a real fire. The surname Ember is a variant of Embery/Hembury, etc., from Emborough in Somerset or Henbury in Dorset. Emborough means "flat-topped hill," while Henbury is "community stronghold." 19th C.

Embla Y Embla is the name of the first human woman, who was formed from an elm tree. ON: dlmr "elm tree" although, there is a possibility it derives from an otherwise lost Norse root cognate with Gr: ampelos "vine." 19th C.

Emblem Y Late medieval form of EMMELINE, which lingered in use into the nineteenth century. By then, it had begun to be reinforced by the adoption of the surname which derived from it, used as a male name as well as female. The unrelated English "emblem" was originally used of an ornament decorated with inlay, deriving from L: emblema "inlaid work" < Gr: emblema "insertion" < emballo "to throw in." Later, it came to be applied to any drawing or picture which depicted a moral fable or allegory, and lastly, a picture or object which served as a symbolic representation of some abstract quality, action, state or organization. Var: Emblema, Emblin, Emblen, Emblyn, Imblen (hist).

Emel Y Turkish name-emel "wish," "desire," "longing," and "ambition."

Emer Y The name in Irish Mythology of the wife of the hero Cu Chulainn. The etymology is very uncertain, but its roots may lie with CC: *amaro- "pain." In Old Irish this became amar "moaning" and "wailing," cognate with Welsh afar "lamentation," from which AFARWY derives. The modern standard Irish Gaelic form is Eimhear. Var: Eimear. Sc Ga: Eimhir. Dain do Eimhir (1943) is a collection of poems in Scots Gaelic by Sorley Maclean.

Emerald Y Old French: esmeralde < L: smaragdus < Gr: smaragdos. What exactly a smaragdos was is very uncertain; it has been applied to the Emerald-a type of beryl-since the Middle Ages. A birthstone for Taurus and the month of May, Emerald is considered to be a stone which is good for

strengthening relationships-between both lovers and friends-banishing negativity in general, and protecting against curses, etc. 19th C.

Emerant Y Archaic form of EMERALD. It features in Hogg's poem "Kilmeny" where Kilmeny is described: "As still was her look, and as still was her e'e/As the stillness that lay on the emerant lea." 19th C.

Emerson Y c~ English surname-"son of EMERY." 17th C. Since the nineteenth century, some use may have been in honor of the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82). It has been increasingly used as a girl's name since the 1990s, as a variant of the -son names.

Emery Y A late medieval form of AMERY, Emery is also a surname deriving from the same source. It is also the name of an extremely hard rock, generally ground into a powder and used to polish metals, stones, or glass, which derives from Gr: smerizo "to smooth."

Emese Y The mother of the Hungarian folk-hero Almos. It is thought to derive from a Finno-Ugric root meaning "mother," and it may be that Emese is a vestige of a Pagan Mother Goddess.

Emi 2 Japanese name-e "blessing," "grace," "mercy" + mi "beautiful."

Emilia ? Italian form of AEMILIA. It was used by Boccaccio in the Decameron; Emilia was chosen with L: aemulus "rival" firmly in mind. The name was frequently used in literature from then on, occurring in three Shakespeare plays alone. It is often treated as a variant of AMELIA, and while there has been a lot of cross-fertilization, the two do have separate origins. Introduced to the ESW in the fourteenth century, Emilia quickly became EMILY, the Latinate form returned in the eighteenth century. Bearers: Emilia Fox (b. 1974), the British actress. Var: Emelia.

Emily Y English form of EMILIA, used since the fourteenth century. An early example is in Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (c. 1369-72), which features a character called Emelye. It wasn't much used, however, until the eighteenth century, when it was treated as the English form of AMELIA. Princess Amelia (1711-1806), for instance, was called Emily by her family. Dim: Em, Emmie, Emmy, MILLIE. Var: Emilie, Emilee, Emely.

Bearers: Lady Emily Lennox, Duchess of Leinster (1731-1814); Emily Bronte (1818-48), the British poet and novelist; Emily Dickinson (1830-86), the American poet; Emily, a little girl in the British children's television series *Bagpuss* (1974); Emily Young, a character in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series (2005-8).

Emin c Turkish name-emin "safe," "secure," "strong," "firm," and "trustworthy."

Emlyn g Y Principally now a Welsh name. It was embraced in the nineteenth century in the belief that it was the Welsh form of AEMILIAN-a notion still widespread today. However, there are no medieval instances of Emlyn as a given name, and its take up in the Victorian period appears to have been largely inspired by the name of the medieval town of Newcastle Emlyn.'The assumption in the past by many was that the "Emlyn" of Newcastle Emlyn was a person-a Roman or Romano-Briton called Aemilian. Aemilian (in its Latin form Aemilianus) is attested in Roman Britain-there is an inscription bearing the name at Caerleon in Wales. However, Newcastle Emlyn actually gets its name from the medieval administrative district of Emlyn, which derives from W: am "about" and "around" + glyn "valley," a reference to the valley of the River Cuch. Emlyn is also a late medieval variant of the girl's name EMMELINE, surviving into the eighteenth century.'The English surname Emlyn-responsible for some of Emlyn's use as a given name-derives from Emmeline.

Emma Y An old Germanic name, originating as a short form of names beginning with ermin "whole" and "universal." It was already in independent use by the late tenth century, when Emma of Normandy (c. 985-1052)-daughter of Richard, Duke of Normandy-married first King Ethelred the Unready, and then King Canute. It was often used in the Middle Ages in the vernacular forms of Em, Emm, and Emme, and the diminutives Emmot, Emmet, and Emmett. By the end of the Middle Ages, it had become much confused with AMY. It was resurrected in its full form Emma in the eighteenth century; Matthew Prior's poem "Henry and Emma" (1709) probably had a hand in its revival.'The character of Emma Peel in the British television adventure series *The Avengers* (1961-69) did much to

promote its use again in the latter twentieth century. Dim: Em, Emmie, Emmy. Bearers: Emma, Lady Hamilton (1761-1815), Lord Nelson's mistress; Emma Thompson (b. 1959) and Emma Watson (b. 1990), British actresses; Emma Restall Orr (b. 1965) also known as Bobcat-a British Druid and founder of the Druid Network and Honouring the Ancient Dead; Emma Woodhouse, central character of Jane Austen's *Emma* (1815); Emma Pole, nee Wintertowne, a character in Susanna Clarke's *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell* (2004).

Emmanuelle Y French feminine form of EMANUEL. Var: Emanuelle. It: Emanuela, Port, Sp: Manuela, Manuelita (dim). Bearers: Emmanuelle Arsan (b. 1932)-born Marayat Bibidh-is the author of *Emmanuelle* (1959).

Emmeline Y Originally a Norman-French diminutive of the Old German Amalia (see Amelia), Emmeline was introduced into Britain after the Norman Conquest in the forms Ameline and Emeline. In the Middle Ages, it often appeared in forms such as Emlin, Emelyn, Emelyne, EMLYN, and EMBLEM, and was Latinized as Emelina. Emmeline itself began to be used in the early eighteenth century, having made an appearance in Henry Purcell's opera *King Arthur* (1691), but it was Charlotte Turner Smith's novel *Emmeline* (1788) which was responsible for popularizing the name at the end of the eighteenth century. Dim: Em, Emmie, Emmy. Bearers: Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928), the leader of the British suffragette movement; Emmeline Vance, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Emmett ci Y Emmett is both a late medieval diminutive form of EMMA and a surname which evolved from it. The girl's name survived in use into the seventeenth century, by which time the surname had started to be used as a given name for boys. Var: Emmet. The murder of Emmett Till (1941-55), for simply whistling at a white woman, was one of the incidents which sparked the American Civil Rights Movement.

Empathy Y Empathy is an ability some people possess to fully "put themselves in someone else's shoes," shedding their own opinions, thoughts and feelings and truly appreciating a situation through the eyes of another. It is a valuable skill for understanding the actions and feelings of others-both in the past and in the present. The word was coined in the early twentieth century as an English version of Ger: *einfühlung* "in-feeling,"

itself coined by the philosopher Robert Vischer in 1873. Empathy itself is from Gr: en "in" + pathos "experience" and "emotion; empathia means "affection," "passion," and "partiality." 20th C.

Emrys c' Traditional Welsh name, said to derive from L: Ambrosius (see Ambrose). Ambrosius Aurelianus, known in Welsh as Emrys Wledig, is a shadowy figure from subRoman Britain, much mixed up with the legends of King Arthur. He may be the "real" man behind Merlin. Dinas Emrys in Gwynedd is said to be the place where Vortigern wished to build a fortress. Every night, however, the day's work was uprooted. Druids told him that the sacrifice of a boy with no human father was required, and it just so happened there was one to hand-Merlin, a.k.a. Myrddin Emrys. Merlin was brought to Dinas Emrys, but the wily youth persuaded Vortigern to dig the hill up instead of killing him. Beneath it, they found the two sleeping dragons, a red and a white, symbolizing the British and the Saxons. Each night these dragons woke and fought, the white at first triumphing, but the red winning in the end. 19th C.

Ena Y Nineteenth-century Anglicization of EITHNE- and also sometimes of AODHNAIT. Queen Victoria's granddaughter Princess Victoria Eugenie Julia Ena of Battenberg (1887-1969) was always known as Princess Ena, and did much to promote the name's use. In Chinook, ena means "beaver."

Ende c~ 2 Zulu: ende "let him/her travel far" or "may he (or she) travel far."

Endellion Y The name of a Cornish saint, one of the daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog-and just for good measure, this one was a Goddaughter of King Arthur too. She gives her name to the parish of St. Endellion. Tales surrounding her have the hallmarks of a Christianized Goddess, including a sacred cow and not just one but two springs. Possibly CC: intensifying prefix *ande- + *flfno- "full," which became luen in Cornish and is known to have featured in Brythonic names in the Roman period. Late 19th C. Var: Endelienta, Endelient, Endelyn. British Prime Minister David Cameron gave it as a third name to his daughter in 2010.

Ender a' Turkish name-ender "very rare."

Endora 2 Endora is first found as a given name in the nineteenth century, almost certainly arising at first as a misreading or misspelling of EUDORA. In Greek, the basic meaning of en is "in" and "into" but in compounds such as this it can carry the meaning "with," so it is possible to interpret Endora as meaning "with gifts." Bearers: Endora, mother of Samantha in the American sitcom *Bewitched* (1964-72); Endora Lenox, a Witch in the American television series *Passions* (1999-2008).

Endymion c~ In Greek mythology, Endymion was a shepherd beloved by Selene, and, according to Pliny the Elder, it was Endymion who first established the human practice of observing the cycles of the moon. Probably Gr: endumios "taken to heart" and "weighing upon the mind," a variant of enthumios. It is sometimes derived, however, from enduo "to go in" or "to sink in," although the principal usage of this verb was "to put on (clothes)." Ignoring the latter detail, some have taken this to mean he was a personification of sleep. Late 16th C. Bearers: Sir Endymion Porter (1587-1649), the English diplomat. It also features in John Lyly's *Endymion*, the *Man in the Moon* (1588), John Keats's poem "Endymion" (1818) and Disraeli's novel *Endymion* (1880).

Enfys y Welsh: enfys "rainbow." Late 19th C.

Engelbert c Old German name Angil "an Angle" (i.e. an Anglo-Saxon) +berht "bright." Introduced by the Normans. Var: Englebert, Inglebert. Bearers: Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921), the German composer; Engelbert Humperdinck (b. 1936), the singer-born Arnold Dorsey.

Enid y Enid first appears as Enide in Chretien de Troyes's *Erec and Enide* in the twelfth century. She next appeared in the Welsh *Geraint and Enid*, which appeared in the fourteenth-century *Red Book of Hergest* and the *White Book of Rhydderch*. Exactly where she originated is a bit of a mystery, but it seems likely there was an earlier Celtic source, for the name, if nothing else. The most plausible option is W: enaid "soul" and "life." Tennyson's "Geraint and Enid" (1859) did much to make the name better known. Mid 19th C. Bearers: Mary Enid Evelyn Guest (1843-1912), daughter of Lady Charlotte Guest, and wife of Sir Austen Henry Layard; Enid Blyton (1897-1968), the English novelist; Enid Nightshade, a Witch in Jill Murphy's *Worst Witch* series (1974-2007).

Enigma 2 Latin: enigma < Gr: ainigma < ainissomai "to speak in riddles." Originally, an enigma was a type of riddle describing something by obscure metaphors for the reader to guess what was meant. It later came to be applied more generally to anything obscure, allusive, and puzzling. Late 20th C. The Enigma Variations (1898-99), one of Edward Elgar's best-known compositions.

Enitan a' 2 Nigerian name. Yoruba: en < eniyan "person" + itan "story," "history"-i.e. "person of history" or "a person with a story." Dim: Eni.

Enki c? Sumerian God, later known as Ea. Sumerian: en "lord" + ki "earth."

Enlil c~ The chief God in the Sumerian and Akkadian pantheon. Sumerian: en "lord" + lil "wind," "breath," and "spirit." He is the God of wind and storms.

Ennoia Y Greek: ennoia "thought." Ennoia is the personification of thought in Gnostic tradition.

Enoch Gi The name of more than one character in the Bible. Heb: hanak "to dedicate" and "to instruct." 16th C. Bearers: Enoch Powell (1912-98), the controversial British politician.

Enola Y A lot of mythology has sprung up around Enola, and much is often made of the fact that it is "alone" spelled backwards. There are also claims that it is Native American. Alarm bells always ring at this, and as far as Enola is concerned, it merits a cathedral's worth. "Native American" is a popular label placed upon names of dubious origin in America, because fluent speakers of the many hundreds of Native American languages are few, and many languages are extinct or on the verge of extinction. The quality of the records of such languages also varies considerably. In truth, the most likely explanation of Enola's appearance in the late nineteenth century lie in the simple fact that names ending in -ola happened to be fashionable: Viola, Lola, Ola, Leola, Nola, Zola, Iola, Creola, Eola, and even Capitola were all in use in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. Enola would probably have been left to gather dust with all the other curios of Victorian nomenclature had it not been borne by the mother of the pilot of the plane which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Tibbets chose

to name the plane after his mom, and the tale gives us a clue as to the real origin of the name. She was, so the story goes, named after a character in a book. Enola is certainly the sort of name that was a mainstay of nineteenth-century novels, and, lo and behold, in 1862-63, Edward S. Ellis's *Enola, the Gipsy Captive; or, The Camp-fires and Wigwams of the Prairies* appeared as a serial in *The New York Weekly*. Almost certainly, Ellis invented the name-possibly he did invert "alone." Who knows? The first recorded instance of Enola as a given name duly followed a few years later in 1871.

Enos c? Biblical name. Heb: "desperate" and "very sick." A related word was used to mean something along the lines of "mortal man," with humanity's frailty and weakness understood. 16th C. Var: Enosh. Bearers: Enos Strate, a character in the American television series *The Dukes of Hazzard* (1979-85).

Ensis C' Latin: ensis "sword." The name of a nebula in Orion.

Enya Y Modern Anglicized form of EITHNE. It has been made famous by the Irish singer-songwriter Eithne Ni Bhraonain (b. 1961), who uses it as her professional name, and it has been used as a given name since 1987-the year Enya's first solo album *Enya* was released. Enya also means "sun" in Paipai.

Enyi a 2 Igbo: enyi "friend."

Enzo c' Italian name, the popularity of which is largely down to the fact that it has long been a short form of names ending in -enzo such as LORENZO. However, it does have older roots, either as an Italian form of Heinz (see Henry) or from the Old German name ANZO. Bearers: Enzo Ferrari (1898-1988), the Italian racing car driver.

Eoghan Gc Irish form of a very old Celtic name, cognate with OWAIN and EWAN. In the past it was usually derived from EUGENE. And although it is now generally accepted that the name has Celtic rather than Greek roots, it may still be cognate with Eugene, deriving perhaps from a CC: cognate *Esugenios-*wesu- "excellent" or the theonym ESUS + *genos- "born," i.e. "well-born" or "born of Esus." Another very plausible option for the first element is *yewo- "yew."

Eoin c? Gaelic form of JOHN and variant of IAN. Sc Ga: Ebin, Jr Ga: Eoin. Bearers: Eoin Colfer (b. 1965), the Irish novelist.

Eolas c~ Druid of Irish mythology, who usually is found with his brothers Fios and Fochmarc. Jr Ga: Bolas "knowledge."

Eos Y Greek Goddess of the dawn. Her name is cognate with that of other Goddesses of the dawn, including the Roman Aurora and Lithuanian Ausra. 19th C.

Eowyn ? A character in The Lord of the Rings. OE: eoh "war-horse" and "charger" (this is also the name of the rune "e") + wynn "joy," "rapture," and "delight." Late 20th C.

Epaphroditus c Greek: epaphroditos "lovely," "fascinating," and "charming" < APHRODITE. It carried an underlying sense of being blessed or favored by Aphrodite. It was common in the ancient world, often used in its hypocoristic form Epaphras. Late 16th C.

Ephesia Y Epithet of Artemis "of Ephesus." Ephesus was a city in Asia Minor famous for a temple dedicated to Artemis, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The etymology of Ephesus is unknown and is likely to have its roots in one of the pre-Greek languages of Asia Minor such as Lycian or Hittite. 18th C. Var: Ephesina, It: Efisia, Efisina.

Ephraim c? Biblical name of debated meaning. It may be Hebrew: peri "fruitful" (the biblical explanation)-aper "covering" or "bandage," or the related eper "ashes." 16th C.

Epicurus 6~ Greek: epikouros "helper" and "ally." Epicurus was used as name in Ancient Greece, being most famously borne by the Greek philosopher Epicurus (341-270 BCE), founder of the Epicurean school of philosophy. What we know about his philosophy is largely through the later Roman poet Lucretius, as only a few fragments of Epicurus's own work survives. The essential message of his teaching was that pleasure (which is defined as an absence of pain) is the only good, as pleasure is the only good our senses know. As a result "Epicurean" now carries the sense of hedonist,

which represents a considerable distortion of Epicurus's actual teachings and Epicurean philosophy. 19th C.

Epimetheus / The name of a Titan, the brother of Prometheus and husband of Pandora. Greek: epimetheuomai "to think afterwards," "to think too late." Often translated as "hindsight." It is now borne by a moon of Saturn and an asteroid. 20th C.

Epiphany Y Greek: epiphaneia "manifestation" and "appearance." It was used of the dawn, but most use was of the appearance of Gods and Goddesses to a worshipper, or a manifestation of divine power. It was later applied to Jesus Christ, and became the name of the feast celebrated on January 6 in the Western calendar commemorating the alleged visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. 16th C. Var: Epiphanie, Epiphania.

Epona Y A Brythonic and Gaulish Goddess. CC: *ekwo "horse." Epona is depicted as a lady on a horse and it is thought most likely that she is one and the same with Rhiannon of Welsh myth. Late 20th C.

Equinox cc Y Latin: aequus "equal" + nox "night." Applied to the two points in the year when day and night is of equal length, the Vernal Equinox in the spring, and the Autumnal Equinox in the fall. Both are important Pagan festivals; the Vernal Equinox often called Ostara, and the Autumnal, Mabon-although the latter is used most by North American Wiccans. 20th C.

Erasis Y Greek: erasis "love." 19th C.

Erasmus c Greek: erasmios "lovely" and "desired." Erasmus shares its root with EROS and is closely related to ERASTUS and ERATO. It was the name of a fourth-century saint, better known as ELMO. 15th C. Dan, Fin: Rasmus. Bearers: Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466/69-1536), the Dutch humanist theologian; English polymath Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802), grandfather of Charles; Erasmus Craven, a sorcerer in the 1963 horror-comedy film The Raven, based (very loosely) on Edgar Allan Poe's poem.

Erastus a' Greek: erastos "beloved" and "lovely"-essentially, a variant of ERASMUS. It was the name of one of Plato's students in the fourth century BCE, and also occurs as the name of a minor character in the New Testament. 16th C. Var: Rastus.

Erato Y Erato is a name which features a number of times in Greek myth and history, including one of the Muses, a Nereid, and a queen of Armenia who lived in the first century BCE/first century CE. Gr: eratos "lovely" and "beloved." 19th C.

Erbin c~ A Cornish saint, also called Ervan, Erven, Erbyn and HERMES-although, as appealing as it would be if this was the origin, it is unlikely. The etymology is, however, very muddy; it may be a Cornish form of URBAN, but it also may possibly be derived from CC: *f-weryon- and therefore cognate with Eirne. St Erbin is usually considered male, but so little is known about him that the being behind the saint could have been female. 19th C.

Erda y Erda is a form of the Norse Earth Goddess Jor\$, meaning, and cognate with, "earth." She is also known as Hlodyn and Fjorgyn, and may also be one and the same as NERTHUS. Erda featured in Wagner's Siegfried (1876), leading to its use in the late nineteenth century. Var: Jord, Jorth.

Erebus One of the primordial Gods, born of Chaos with his sister Nyx. Together they became the parents of Hemera and Aether. He is God of the utter darkness of the Underworld, although in essentials, he is one and the same with Hades. Gr: erebos "deep darkness." 20th C.

Eren c Turkish name-eren "saint," "mystic," and "dervish."

Erenay 2 Turkish name-eren "saint," "mystic," "dervish" + ay "moon."

Ereshkigal Y The Goddess of the Underworld in the Sumerian and Akkadian pantheon. Sumerian: eres "queen" + ki "earth" + gal "great" or "foremost"-i.e. "Great Queen of the Earth."

Eric cc Old Norse: Eiríkr-ei "ever" and "always" or einn "one" + ríkr "mighty" and "powerful." It saw only minimal usage in Britain in the medieval period and does not appear to have long survived the Norman Conquest. However, Eric, Erick, Ericke, and Arick are found as given names from at least the seventeenth century in Scotland-possibly representative of links with Scandinavia in the period. It returned to the rest of the ESW in the nineteenth century, inspired by Frederic W. Farrar's *Eric, or Little by Little* (1858). Est, Fin: Eerik, Fin: Eerikki; Eero (dim), Nor: Eirik, Ice: Eiríkur, Cz, Ger, Scand: Erik, Ger: Erich, Fin: Erkki. Bearers: numerous Scandinavian kings over the centuries, including Erik the Red (950-c. 1003); Erik, the "Phantom" in Gaston Leroux's novel *Phantom of the Opera* (1911).

Erica Y Erica arose in the nineteenth century as a feminine form of ERIC, but right from the start, the fact it was identical to L: erica "heather" was noted, and it has often been used with only the heather in mind. Fin: Eerika, Get, Scand: Erika. Bearers: Erica Kane, a principal character in the American soap opera *All My Children* (1970-2011).

Erichtho 2 A Witch in Lucan's *Pharsalia*. Lucan's work was influential, and Erichtho was used again by Dante in *The Divine Comedy* (1308-21), and Goethe's *Faust* (1808,1832). Gr: erekhtho "to rend" or "to break."

Erin 2 Anglicized form of Eirinn.'This was originally a form of tire meaning "to/for Ireland" (dative), but by the eighteenth century, it had become the normal form in some Irish dialects and Scots Gaelic (Eirinn). It has been used as a poetic name for Ireland since the eighteenth century. Used as a given name for boys and girls since the nineteenth century outside Ireland, but only fairly recently has it been used within. Bearers: Erin Brockovich-Ellis (b. 1960), famous for taking on the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, on which the film *Erin Brockovich* (2000) was based.

Erinna Y A Greek poetess, who is believed to have lived on the island of Telos near Rhodes.'There is considerable debate about when she lived; some make her a contemporary of Sappho (c. 600 BCE), while others place her in the fourth century BCE. That she was a talented poetess who died at the age of nineteen seems to be all that can be agreed upon. Gr: heros "hero" + fem. suffix -inna, or erinos "spring." 20th C.

Eriu Y An Irish Goddess, closely linked with Banba and Fodla. The three-a Triple Goddess-vied for the honor of being the namesake of Ireland, and Eriu won, although both Banba and Fodla are still used poetically. The English "Ireland" and Irish Eire derive from her name. Most agree that Eriu's roots lie with 01: iriu < CC: *f-weryon- "earth" and "soil."

Ermine Y cc French: hermine < OG: harmin "belonging to the ermine" < harmo "ermine," "stoat" and "weasel," or L: Armenius "of Armenia." In Roman times, the probable Latin name for the creature was Mus ponticus- "Pontic mouse"; the Roman provinces of Armenia and Pontus were adjacent and may have been interchangeable as far as the animal was concerned. Ermine is mostly associated with the pure white fur, but is also used of the animal, especially in winter, when its fur is white; the rest of the year, it tends to go by the less exotic name of stoat. Ermine is encountered as a given name in the Middle Ages-but this is a variant of Ermin and Ermen, used as the short form of names beginning with OE: eormen "whole."

Erminia ? Latin: Herminia, feminine of Herminius-a Roman gens of uncertain origin; a derivation from HERMES certainly looks the most plausible. Erminia was used by Torquato Tasso in his epic poem Jerusalem Delivered (1581). 17th C. It Erminia, Fr: Erminie, Sp: Herminia.

Ermyltrude 2 Old German name-ermin "whole" and "universal" + drudi "strength." 19th C. Var: Ermintrude, Ermentrude. Bearers: Ermintrude, a character (a cow) in the British version of the children's television series The Magic Roundabout (1965-77).

Erna Y Erna occurs in Norse mythology as the name of the wife of Jarl. ON: ern "brisl" and "vigorous." It has long been treated as a feminine form of Ernest in Germany and Scandinavia, being taken up in the ESW in the nineteenth century.

Ernest c The English form of the German (and Dutch and Scandinavian) Ernst from Old German Ernust "vigor" and "earnestness." Used in Germany since at least the tenth century, but little encountered in the ESW before the eighteenth, when it was made fashionable by the Hanoverians. The father of King George I was Ernest Augustus, Elector of Brunswick-

Luneburg (1629-98), but it was King George III's son Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland (1771- 1851), later King of Hanover, who made the name really well known. Dim: Ernie, Ern. Var: EARNEST. Cz: Arnost, Fr, Pol, Ru: Ernest, It, Port, Sp: Ernesto, Fin: Erno, Hun: Ern&.

Ernestine Y Feminine form of ERNEST. Ernestina and Ernestine were used in Germany from the fifteenth century. Used in the ESW since the late eighteenth century.

Erol c Turkish name-er "male," "brave man," "capable man," etc. Eril means "masculine."

Eros Gc The Greek God of (sexual) love. He is usually regarded now as the son of Aphrodite by Ares, and familiar to all as a cuddly little cherub with wings and a bow and arrow-but the ancients perceived him very differently. In some early sources, such as Hesiod, he was considered to be one of the three original deities to emerge from Chaos, along with Gaia and Tartarus.'The Greeks and Romans recognized and embraced-in a way the Abrahamic religions like to brush pink-cheeked under the carpet-the cardinal importance of sex in the perpetuation of human life and as a generative force.'Thus Eros to the Greeks was a handsome, virile, dimple-free young man. It is quite probable that an obscure fourth-century saint, Erotis, is an outright adoption into the saintly fold of a God whom the Church struggled to suppress from the start. Since a major part of its doctrine rests upon sex being classed as a "sin," containing the God of sexual love was always going to be a sticky problem-and slapping a "Saint" in front may have been one way they dealt with this troublesome Pagan deity that wouldn't just vanish into a puff of air. 19th C.

Erosabel Y Romani name recorded in the nineteenth century. It appears to be an elaboration of ROSABEL, perhaps influenced by EROS.

Erragal c~ Considered to be a form of NERGAL, although it may be simply Erra (the name of a Sumerian God who later became assimilated into Nergal) + Sumerian gal "great." Erragal may be the true source of HERACLES. Var: Erakal.

Errol c? English and Scottish surname. The English Errols derive from the Old English name Eoforwulf-eofor "boar" + Wulf "wolf." The Scottish Errols originate from Errol in Perthshire. In old records, this was called Arroll, and is believed to derive from Sc Ga: ear "east" + nil "landmark." 18th C. Var: Erroll. Bearers: Errol Flynn (1909-59), the Australian-born actor; Errol, an owl in the Harry Potter series.

Erth cc Cornish saint, also known as Ercus in Latin, Erg in Welsh and Ere in Cornish. He was said to be Irish, a brother of St. Ila and St. Euny. Almost certainly, his name derives from CC: *ferko- "salmon."

Eruca Y Botanical name for rocket. It is also another old-name for a caterpillar. 20th C.

Erwin c? Often treated as a variant of Irvine, Irwin derives from Old English Eoforwine-eofor "boar" + wine "friend." The name survived the Norman Conquest in forms such as Erwin, Irwin, and Irwine to give rise to the surname. 17th C.

Erycina Y Epithet of Venus < ERYX. Early 20th C.

Eryl ? e Welsh unisex name-eryl < erhyl "hunt" and "pursuit." Its use may have been suggested by Bwlch Eryl Farchog, a famous and dramatic beauty spot in Snowdonia.

Eryma 2 Epithet of Athene. Gr: eruma "defender," "guard," "defence."

Erytheia Y The name of one of the Hesperides (see Hesperis). Gr: eruthed "to be red." It was also the name of a small island in the Bay of Cadiz, called Erythea by the Romans.

Eryx Gc The name of the eponymous hero of Mount Eryx in Sicily, said to be a son of Aphrodite. Now called Erice or Monte San Giuliano, the name seems to derive from Gr: ereugomai "to belch out," "to disgorge," and "to blurt out." Eryx is considered an extinct volcano today, but its name suggests that it may still have been active when the Greeks first settled on Sicily. It was famous for a temple to Aphrodite on its summit. 19th C.

Eryxo Y A queen of Cyrenaica of the sixth century BCE. She avenged the death of her husband, King Arcesilaus, by luring his killer Learchus into her bedroom, where her brother was waiting for him with a sword. Gr: ereugomai "to belch out," "to disgorge," and "to blurt out."

Esarhaddon Gi Akkadian: Ashur-aha-iddina "Ashur has given me a brother" < ASHUR + ahu "brother" + nadanum "to give." "The name of an Assyrian king of the seventh century BCE.

Esasa y c~ Zulu: esasa "be delighted," "be happy," "be glad," "it is delighted," etc., and "of the morning." Closely related is Esase-"may she (or he) be happy" or "let her/him be happy."

Esau c' Biblical name, traditionally said to mean "hairy" in Hebrew, but there are issues with this etymology and it seems more likely to derive from a verb meaning "to do" and to "accomplish." "The traditional etymology persists, however. 16th C.

Esen 2 Turkish name-esen "healthy," "well," and "sound." The expression esen kahn means "good-bye."

Esfandyar (~ A celebrated Persian hero who features in Ferdowsi of Tus's tenth-century epic Shahnameh. His name derives from the Avestan Spentodata "given by a holy one." 'The -data part is exactly cognate with the identical ending in Latin names such as Deodata, deriving ultimately from PIE: *do- "to give." "The word spenta is mostly encountered alongside amesha as the Zoroastrian equivalent of a God or Goddess (see Amesha). Var: Esfandiyar, Isfandiyar.

Eshmun An important Phoenician God of healing. He is the Phoenician equivalent of Asclepius. The etymology is not clear or obvious. It has the appearance of meaning "eighth" in Phoenician, but this is likely to be deceptive. The fact that the later myth states he was an eighth son smacks of a myth being created as an explanation of an otherwise odd name for a God. It has been suggested, more plausibly, that his name actually derives from SHULMAN.

Esiban a' Y Ojibwe: esiban "raccoon."

Esin y Turkish name-esin "morning breeze" and "inspiration."

Esme Y c? A peculiar name, first borne, it seems, by Esme Stuart, Duke of Lennox (1542-83). His family had strong French ties; his mother was a Frenchwoman and his father was Seigneur d'Aubigny. It seems that Esme arose as a variant of Aime, the French equivalent of AMIAS. The name became established in this branch of the Stuarts and gradu-

ally spread. In the nineteenth century, it started to be used as a girl's name, possibly under the influence of Edme or Ismay. In France, there was also a feminine form Esmee, but Esme was being used as a girl's name in the ESW before some people adopted what might be viewed as the "more correct" Esmee at the end of the nineteenth century.

Esmeralda Y The heroine of Victor Hugo's Notre Dame de Paris (1831). Sp: esmeralda "emerald." La Esmeralda was actually the character's nickname-bestowed upon her because she always wore a paste emerald. 19th C.

Esmeray y Turkish name-esmer "dart" + ay "moon."

Esmond c~ Old English: Eastmund-east "grace" and "favor" + mund "protection." It survived the Norman Conquest, giving rise to surnames such as Esmond and Eastman, returning as an adoption of the surname in the seventeenth century.

Esperanza y Spanish name-esperanza "hope." Taken up in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Fr: Esperance, It: SPERANZA.

Essence Y The word "essence" evolved from Latin Essentia "the being" < esse "to be." In English, it was first used to mean "existence," only later taking on the meanings of "entity" and "defining character or substance." 20th C. See also Quintessence.

Essie ? Originally a pet-form of ESTHER, Essie has been used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century. Var: Essa.

Estelle Y A French name. It may be from an old form of Fr: étoile "star" < STELLA. A comparative development of how the word étoile arose from stella can be seen in the development of Etienne from Stephen. However, another plausible option is that Estelle developed as a variant of ESTHER. The -er ending sits awkwardly in French, and the linguistics involved in a shift to -elle are slight. Certainly, the resemblance to the Latin stella, if not an archaic form of étoile (no coincidence, as stella and Esther are probably cognate anyway) may have encouraged its development. The name was rare in France before the nineteenth century, being found only in Les Charentes and Provence-another hint that its origins lie with Esther; Provence was where Isabella developed from Elizabeth. Although it had become more widespread by the second half of the nineteenth century, Estelle's use in France still largely postdates the publication of Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* (1860-61), the heroine of which is Estella-which naturally became Estelle in the French version. Bearers: Estelle Masterson, a (shrewish mortal) character in the American film *I Married a Witch* (1942).

Esther Y In the Bible, Esther was the name given to Hadassah when she entered the harem of King Ahasuerus. It is widely believed to have derived from the Old Persian stara "star." However, it may actually be from ISHTAR. Esther was the Greek form used in the Bible; the Latin forms were Esthira and Hestira, with Esther deriving from the former and HESTER from the latter. Both came into use in the sixteenth century, and quickly became confused with EASTER and each other. Var: Esta (mod). Dim: ESSIE. Cz, Dan, Fin, It, Port: Ester, Fin: Esteri, Dut, Fr, Ger, Sp: Esther, Hun: Eszter; Eszti (dim). Bearers: Esther Vanhomrigh (c. 1688-1723), probably the inspiration for Jonathan Swift's Vanessa in "*Cadenus and Vanessa*"; Esther Forbes (1891-1967), the American writer amongst whose works was *A Mirror for Witches* (1928) about the Salem Witch trials. Esther (1689) is a play by Racine.

Estrella ? Spanish name; its roots lie with the Old German Austrechildis-cognate with the English ESTRILD- but it has since become entirely associated with the separately evolved Spanish estrella "star." Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Alfonso and Estrella (1822) is an opera by Schubert. Estrella Damm is a Spanish beer.

Estrild Y Old English: Eastorhild-Eastre (see Easter) + hild "battle." It survived until the thirteenth century, and was resurrected in the late nineteenth century. Var: Estrilda. Sp: ESTRELLA.

Esus cf Celtic God, known to us not just from inscriptions but also from the writings of the Roman poet Lucan. He mentions Esus with the Gods Teutates and Taranis, leading to speculation that the three form a triple deity. "The context isn't terribly flattering; Esus's shrines are described as "bloody" and later commentators took great delight in linking him with human sacrifice. A depiction of Esus cutting down a tree on a relief found at Trier suggests that Esus may be a God of death. Intriguingly, however, it is thought the tree depicted may be a willow, which, when coppiced in the winter, grows back in the spring. In both the Trier relief, and another found at Paris, Esus is linked with Tarvos Trigaranos-"the bull with three cranes." What precisely this signifies is not known for certain, but it is tempting to suggest that the cranes represent the feminine aspect of the Divine in unison with the masculine (represented by the bull), making it a symbol of the regenerative forces of Nature. This rather suggests that as well as presiding over ends, Esus also holds sway over beginnings, a God of death-but also a God of rebirth. The name Esus is almost certainly CC: *wesu-"excellent" and "noble," though another tantalizing possibility lies with PIE: h2ausos- "dawn," the source of the names of a number of deities, such as Eos, Eastre, Aurora, Ushas, and Ausra. The Common Celtic equivalent is *wfri-, which at first glance seems to rule out the possibility that Esus derives from this source also. However, names have a habit of crystallizing in older forms-and depending on just how old a deity Esus is, it may have formed in a pre-Common Celtic phase. Also, it is possible the form the name took was influenced by its later apparent resemblance to *wesu- when it was no longer sufficiently clear that it was in fact cognate with *wfri. The name is etymologically entirely unrelated to Jesus-and the resemblance is entirely coincidental-but it is possible, even likely, that early Christian proselytizers made use of it as a tool for conversion; especially if Esus really is a God of death and regeneration.

Esyllt Y Welsh equivalent of ISOLDA-at least as far as the character in the Arthurian Romances is concerned. Late 19th C. Var: Essyllt.

Etain Y A name from Irish mythology. Correctly written Etain, the modern form is Etaoin, but the name has acquired many variants, including Edain, Edaoín, and Aidin, and the Anglicized Etaine and Aideen. Its probable derivation is from CC: *aydu "fire" from which OI: ded "fire" derives-as well as the name AIDAN. Some argue that it comes from OI: it "jealousy," although this actually comes from *aydu- too. However, Etain almost certainly predates the development of it. Matters are not helped in any of this by the fact there is "another" Etain, with whom Etain (and especially her name) is often confused-Stán, the wife of Ógma, whose name also occurs as Eadan. The principal Etain, wife of Eochaid Airem, lover of Midir, and the subject of the early Irish lay *The Wooing of Etain* (c. eighth/ninth century), is quite probably a sun Goddess in origin, and her epithet Echraide "horse-rider" may link her with the Welsh Rhiannon. Her daughter, Étaín, attempts to arrange the murder of her husband's daughter by his first marriage out of jealousy (hence, perhaps, some people's eagerness to derive the name from et). Bearers: Edain McCoy (b. 1957), an American Witch who promotes the Irish Wicca tradition; Etain features in *The Immortal Hour* (1908), a play by Fiona MacLeod (William Sharp). *Etain the Beloved and Other Poems* (1912) is an anthology by Irish poet and playwright James Cousins.

Etazeta 2 A third-century BCE queen of Bithynia. Etazeta is a Hellenized form; what the true form of her name is-and its meaning-are unknown.

Etel, Etelka 2 Feminine forms of Etele, a Hungarian form of ATTILA. Etelka seems to have been invented by the Hungarian novelist Andras Dugonics for his novel *Etelka* (1788).

Eteocles c~ One of the two sons of Oedipus, who contested the throne and ended up going to war-ultimately killing each other on the battlefield. Gr: eteos "true" and "real" + kleos "glory" and "fame."

Eternity Y French: éternité < Lat: aeternitas "endlessness," "immortality," and "eternity." 20th C.

Ethaba Y a' Zulu: ethaba "be happy!," "be glad!," and "be cheerful!"

Ethan ' Biblical name. Heb: eitan "perennial," "firm," and "sturdy." 16th C. Bearers: Ethan Hawke (b. 1970), the American actor; Ethan Frome, central character of Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome* (1911); Ethan Hunt, the hero of the *Mission: Impossible* movies; Ethan Rayne, a "chaos magician" in the American television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003).

Ethel Y Ethel arose as a short form of the numerous girls' names beginning with Ethel- (OE: *æthel* "noble"), in particular *ÆTHELDRED*. It started to be used independently before the close of the eighteenth century-a use which wasn't without parallel; *IE\$elu* had been used in Anglo-Saxon England, and *ADELA* is exactly cognate. The word "ethel"-deriving from exactly the same source and obsolete since the thirteenth century-was a term meaning "ancestral lands" and "native land." Bearers: Ethel Turner (1872-1958), the Australian novelist; Ethel Roosevelt Derby (1891-1977), Teddy Roosevelt's daughter; Ethel Rosenberg (1918-53), a victim of McCarthyism; Ethel Skinner, a long-running character on the British television soap opera *Eastenders* (1985-); Ethel Hallow, a Witch in Jill Murphy's *Worst Witch* series (1974-2007).

Ethelbert cc' Old English: *IE\$elberht-₂*, *æthel* "noble" + *beorht*. The name of a sixth-/seventh-century Anglo-Saxon king and saint. Bearers: Ethelbert Nevin (1862-1901), the American composer and pianist.

Ethelberta 2 Nineteenth-century feminine form of *ÆTHELBERT*, made well known by Thomas Hardy's *The Hand of Ethelberta* (1876). Most use postdates the novel.

Ethelburga Y Old English: *IE\$elburh-₂* *æthel* "noble" + *burh* "fortress." Revived 19th C. Var: Ethelburg.

Etheldred, Etheldreda Y Old English: *IE\$elthryth* (*fEþelþryg*)-*cedel* "noble" + *kryd* "strength," Etheldred was a popular name in Anglo-Saxon times, due to the popularity of the seventh-century St. Etheldred. It survived not just the Norman Conquest, but also the Middle Ages, largely in its vernacular form *AUDREY*. The Latin form *Etheldreda* was used from the eighteenth century. Dim: *Dreda*. Bearers: Etheldred Benett (1776-1845), the English geologist.

Ethelfleda y Old English: fE4)elflxd-&oe/ "noble" + _#-,d "clean," "pure," and "beautiful." Borne by the oldest daughter of King Alfred the Great, Ethelfleda, Countess of Mercia (869/70-918). Even before the Norman Conquest, it had already become hopelessly entangled with ELFLEDA.

Ethelinda Y Ethelinda's use dates only to the early eighteenth century, after it was used by Nicholas Rowe for a character in his play *The Royal Convert* (1707). There was an Old German name Adallindis-adal "noble" + linde "serpent" or lindi "soft" and "tender." A corresponding Old English name IE\$elind also existed, but neither it nor the German appear to have been in use in England in the medieval period. Whether Rowe took his name from one of these sources or simply coined it is impossible to say. Var: Ethelind. Bearers: Ethelinda Vanderbilt (1817-89), daughter of the American entrepreneur Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Ethelred c~ Old English: fE\$elraed-cedel "noble" + reed "counsel." Ethelred, was the name of numerous Saxon kings, most famously Ethelred the Unready (c. 968-1016). Ethelred wasn't actually "unready" for anything in the modern sense; unrced meant "ill-advised" and was a play on his name, reflecting the nature of his reign. By the end of the eleventh century, Ethelred had become confused in the records with Aldred. Revived early 19th C.

Ethereal c~y Deriving from AETHER, the adjective ethereal in its most basic sense means "like aether," thus further meanings it has acquired are "light," "airy," "heavenly," "spiritlike," and "unearthly." Late 19th C.

Ethiopia Y English form of L: Aethiopia < Gr: Aithopia. In Greek myth, Ethiopia was founded by Aethiops, a son of Hephaistos. In Ethiopian legend too, the land's name was ascribed to a legendary founder, in this case Ityopp'is, whose father was said to be the biblical Cush. In all likelihood, the Greeks on this occasion were closer to the mark-although Ethiopia derives not from the name Aethiops, but from Gr: Aithiops "Ethiopian" < aithos "burnt" + ops "face." Late 20th C.

Etiona Y Gaulish Goddess known from only one inscription. It is possible that her name is cognate with ETAIN. Alternatively, it may be from CC: *ett(n)jo- "kernel"-a reference, perhaps, to hazelnuts, associated with

wisdom and knowledge in Celtic belief. Evidence is sadly too thin to state anything with any certainty.

Etoile 2 c French: etoile "star." Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Belle-Etoile is the name of the heroine of Madame d'Aulnoy's seventeenth-century fairy-tale "Princess Belle-Etoile."

Etsuko Y Japanese name-etsu joy"and "delight" + ko "child."

Etta, Ettie 2 Originally, Etta and Ettie were regarded as pet-forms of HENRIETTA or HARRIET, but in the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries they have come to be used for any of the names ending in -etta. Since the nineteenth century, they have also been used independently.

Etzel c~ Old German form of ATTILA, which appears in the medieval German epic poem the Nibelungenlied. Late 19th C.

Eubule c~ Anglicized form of Gr: euboulus "well-advised" and "prudent." It is an epithet of Zeus, but was also used as a personal name in ancient times, and occurs in the New Testament in the Latin form Eubulus. 17th C.

Eucleia Y Greek: eukleia "good repute" and "glory," Eucleia is the personification of these qualities. Plutarch says that there was an altar to her in every market place and it is known that she had a temple at Aigia in Macedonia. She is usually considered to be one of the "Younger Graces," but was also identified in the ancient world with Artemis.

Eudo c~ Latinized form of Old German Eutha, possibly cognate with or derived from Old Norse joo "child" and "baby." Alternatively, it may have been just a variant of ODO. It was introduced into England by the Normans in the forms Eudo, Eudes, and Eudon, but did not survive. Revived 19th C.

Eudora 2 One of the Hyades in Greek mythology, a group of sisters transformed into the star cluster which bears their name. Gr: eu "well" and "good" + doron "gift." 18th C. Bearers: Eudora Welty (1909-2001), the American author; Eudora Addams, a character in the American sitcom The New Addams Family (1998-99).

Eugene c~ English form of Latin Eugenius < Greek Eugenios < eugenes "well-born." It is the name of more than one saint and a number of popes. Little used in the ESW prior to the eighteenth century, when it was first bestowed in honor of Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736), the ally of the Duke of Marlborough during the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-14). Dim: Gene. Ger: Eugen, Fr: Eugene, It, Port, Sp: Eugenio, Pol: Eugeniusz, Czech: Evien, Hun: JENO, Ru: Evgeni, Evgeny, Yevgeni, Yevgeny; Zhenya (dim). Bearers: Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953), the American playwright; Eugene "Gene" Roddenberry (1921-91), creator of the Star Trek universe; Eugene "Gene" Hunt, a principal character in the British television series *Life on Mars* (2006- 7) and *Ashes to Ashes* (200 8-10).

Eugenia Y Feminine of EUGENE. It occurred in the Middle Ages but saw little use before the nineteenth century. Fr: EUGENIE, Ru: Evgenia, Yevgenia; Zhenya (dim). Bearers: Eugenia Alabaster, a main character in AS. Byatt's *Angels and Insects* (1992).

Eugenie Y French form of EUGENIA. Eugenie de Montijo (1826-1920) was the wife of the French Emperor Napoleon III, who lived in England from 1871. The name was taken up in the ESW in her honor, the most notable example being Princess Victoria Eugenie Julia Ena of Battenberg (1887-1969), grand-daughter of Queen Victoria and wife of King Alfonso XIII of Spain. Bearers: Princess Eugenie of York (b. 1990). Eugenie Grandet (1833) is a novel by Honore de Balzac.

Eulalia Y Feminine form of Greek Eulalius "belonging to Eulalus" < Eulalus "sweetly-speaking"-an epithet of Apollo. Borne by more than one saint, in particular the patron saint of Barcelona. 16th C-mostly Devon, England. Var: Ulalia. Fr: Eulalie; Lalie, Laly (dim.). Bearers: Eulalia, the principal character in Richard Brome's *The Queen and the Concubine* (c. 1635-40).

Eunhye ? Korean name-eunhye "grace."

Eunice 2 Greek: eu "well" and "good" + nike "victory." It was the name of one of the Nereids, and also occurs in the Bible as the name of the mother of St. Timothy. 16th C. Bearers: Eunice Kennedy Shriver (1921-2009), one of John F. Kennedy's sisters.

Euodia ? Greek: euodia "good journey." Borne by a character in the New Testament. 18th C.

Eupheme ? Greek eu "well" and "good" + pheme "utterance," "speech," and "omen." Eupheme is the personification of good omens. She may have been quite a late development, her name occurring only in Orphic hymns, which date to the late Hellenistic and Roman periods. Much confused with EUPHEMIA. 17th C.

Euphemia Y Greek: euphemia "the use of words of good omen," but it was as much used to mean an avoidance of inappropriate and inopportune language during religious rituals as it was to mean actual auspicious utterances. The cry euphemia sto! "which featured at the start of a Greek (Pagan) religious ritual is best translated as "let there be silence!" Later, it came to mean "auspiciousness," "worship," and "good repute." More than one saint bears the name and it was popular across medieval Europe, being borne by a twelfth-century queen of Hungary and a fourteenth-century queen of Norway. In medieval Britain, it usually occurs as Eufemia, but by the end of the medieval period it was mostly found in vernacular forms such as Epham, Effam, and Eupham. It became rare in England and Wales after the Reformation, but continued in regular use in Scotland, where Euphemia returned in all its Latinate glory in the eighteenth century. It returned to more general use in the nineteenth century. Dim: Effie, Phemie.

Euphilia Y Found in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, this name is probably just a variant spelling of OPHELIA. It may, however, have been coined or influenced by Gr: euphiles "beloved." Var: Euphila.

Euphrasia Y Botanical name for eyebright, a little plant long used in magic and herbal medicine. Ruled by the sun and the element Air, drinking an infusion helps clear the mind and if the eyes are bathed with it, it is said to promote clairvoyancy. Herbalists in the past used it to treat disorders of the eyes. It is still sometimes combined with goldenrod to make a lotion to soothe eye troubles. Greek: euphrasia "good cheer." 18th C.

Euphrosyne y Greek: euphrosune "mirth" and "merriment." Euphrosyne, personification of mirth and joy, is one of the Graces. It was borne by a fifth-century saint, and became popular in the lands where the Eastern

Orthodox Church held sway, its use reinforced by the addition of a twelfth-century saint from Belarus and a fifteenth-century Russian one. 17th C.

Var: Euphrosina, Euphrosine. Mod Gr: Efrosini, It, Port, Rom, Sp:

Eufrosina, Hun: Eufrozina, FRUZZSINA, Ru: Yefrosiniya, Yefrosina.

Eurfron y Welsh: our "gold" + bron "breast." 19th C.

Euripides d The name of the celebrated and influential Athenian playwright of the fifth century BCE. Many of Euripides's plays survive and are still performed today. Notable among his surviving works are Medea (431 BCE), Hippolytus (428 BCE), Electra (c. 420 BCE), and The Bacchae (405 BCE). Gr: euripos-a word used of a channel where flux and reflux was strong (notably the channel between the island of Euboea and mainland Greece, which is still called the Euripus Strait) + suffix -ides. Euripides is still used in Greece in honor of the playwright.

Europa 2 In Greek mythology, Europa was a daughter of the king of Tyre or Sidon. She caught Zeus's eye, and he visited her in the guise of a white bull. She climbed upon his back, and he swam with her to Crete. There she gave birth to Minos, Rhadamanthys, and Sarpedon. Unusually for a former lover of Zeus, Europa's tale had a fairly happy ending, and she didn't come to a sticky end. Instead, she married Asterius, King of Crete and gave her name to Europe. The etymology of Europa, however, may be more complex than it appears. Superficially, it looks as though it is a combination of Gr: eurus "broad" and "wide" + ops "face," but if this were truly the case, it ought to have taken the form *Euryope- at least at some point in its history. Given the fact that the toponym Europa probably pre-dates the mythical woman, it may be that the Greek name is a classic example of the Greeks taking an unfamiliar foreign word and shaping it "in their image" to give it some semblance of meaning in their tongue. A plausible origin is that the word, just like Europa herself, was in fact Phoenician. Phoenician: ereb "west," cognate with Akkadian: erabu "the setting sun" and "sunset" < erebu "to enter," referring to the appearance of the setting sun "entering" the sea. The variant ereb samsi, literally "the entering of the sun"-which was also used to mean "sunset" and "the West"-makes this link explicit. To the Phoenicians (and the Akkadians), therefore, Europe was simply the region which lay to the West. 17th C.

Europe Y a English form of EUROPA-the name of the continent. Rich in history and culture, European civilization has had a fundamental and massive impact on shaping every aspect of life on the entire planet-for good and for ill. 19th C.

Euros c' Y Modern Welsh name. It was probably conceived as a short form of EUROSWEYDD, but is often now interpreted as meaning "sunflower," on the assumption that it is a combination of our "gold" + rhosyn "rose." However, the usual Welsh word for sunflower is blodyn yr haul or heulodyn. Early 20th C.

Eurosweydd c~ In the Mabinogion, Eurosweydd is the father of Nisien and Efnisien, the half-brothers of Bran, Branwen, and Manawydan. Probably W: our "gold" + osweydd "enemy."

Eurus c? The east wind of Greek myth. Gr: euros "breadth" and "width."

Eurwen 2 Welsh: our "gold" + gwyn. 19th C. Var: Aurwen.

Eurydice ? Most famously borne by the tragic wife of Orpheus. So grief-stricken at her death from a snake-bite, Orpheus traveled to the Underworld to persuade Hades to give her back to him. Charmed by the beauty of his music, Hades agreed, on the condition that Orpheus not look back before he regained the land of the living. Of course, just before he reached the exit, Orpheus couldn't resist sneaking a glance-and Eurydice was dragged back down to Hades. Gr: eurus "broad," "wide," and "far-reaching" + dike "justice." The myth has long been a favorite of artists, writers and composers; it was a particularly popular theme for operas; Jacopo Peri's Euridice (1600) is one of the very first operas ever written. 18th C.

Eurylochus c~ The name of more than one character in Greek mythology, including a member of Odysseus's crew and one of the suitors pursuing Odysseus's wife on Ithaca in his absence. Gr: eurus "broad," "wide," and "far-reaching" + lokhos "ambush" and "armed band."

Eurynome Y The name of several minor figures in Greek mythology, including the mother of Bellerophon. Greek eurus "broad," "wide," and

"far-reaching" + nomos "pasture" or "tradition" < nemo "to deal out," "to pay due honor," and "to pasture."

Eusebius cc Greek: eusebes "pious" and "dutiful." Although the original Greek word was used in a Pagan context, Eusebius was a common name from the third century CE among Christians in the Roman Empire. More than one saint bore it, including the prolific third-century writer Eusebius of Caesarea, who notoriously endorsed the notion of using fiction as though it were true as a means of promoting the Church-and suppressing anything that might be detrimental to it. 15th C. Var: Euseby.

Eustace e English form of Latin Eustachius < Gr: eustakhes "rich in corn"- i.e. "blooming" and "fruitful." It was borne by more than one saint, and was popular in the Middle Ages, when it was introduced as Eustache. Var: Eustas, Ewstace (hist). Bearers: Eustace Conway (b. 1961), the American naturalist and "spokesperson for the Earth," one of whose quotes is: "Today more than ever we need to understand and live by harmony and balance with Nature, for truly, man separate from Nature is a fantasy." Eustace Scrubb is a character in C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia.

Eustacia Y Feminine of EUSTACE. Used in the Middle Ages along with Eustachia, although in everyday use women who bore the name were probably called Eustace along with the boys. There are examples of Eustace as a girl's name as late as the seventeenth century. Eustacia returned to its full form in the eighteenth century. Bearers: Eustacia Vye, a character in Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native* (1878); Eustacia Yewbeam, a character in Jenny Nimmo's *Children of the Red King* (2002-) series.

Euterpe Y One of the Muses. Euterpe is usually considered the patroness of lyric poetry or flute-playing. Greek: euterpes "delightful" and "charming."

Euthymia Y Greek: eutbymia "joy" and "cheerfulness." The ancients personified her as a Goddess, although they treated her as one and the same with Euphrosyne. Very similar is Euthemia-Greek eu "well" and "good" + themis "custom," "law" and "tradition"-the name of a nymph who fell foul of Artemis.

Eva y Latin form of EVE. It was taken up as a given name around the twelfth century, and quickly became established. Although Eva was the usual form in documents, it is likely that Eve-found in records from the thirteenth century was its usual form in everyday life. It was common enough in England to give rise to surnames such as Eve and Eaves, but it was in Ireland it took deepest root, where it was used to translate the native Aoife. This is actually far closer in pronunciation to Eva than Eva is to the original Hawwah-which is also transliterated as Chavvah and Chawwa, etc. After many centuries seeing little use outside Latin documents, Eva was revived in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Eva Ibbotson (1925-2010), the British writer, author of books such as *Which Witch?* (1979) and *The Secret of Platform 13* (1994).

Evadne Y The name of two figures in Greek mythology, neither of whom had particularly cheerful stories; one threw herself on her husband's funeral pyre in grief, the other, impregnated by Apollo, left her newborn baby in a thicket, where it was fed honey by snakes. Probably Gr: eu "well" and "good" + adnos, the Cretan Greek form of hagnos "pure." 19th C.

Evan c~ Anglicization of IFAN, the Welsh form of JOHN. It evolved from the older form Yevan < Iefan. It took the form Evan around 1500, and was one of the few "Welsh" names to remain in popular and regular use until the Celtic Revival in the nineteenth century.

Evander e In Roman mythology, Evander was a son of Hermes, who left his native Arcadia and settled in Italy a few decades before Aeneas. He was said to have founded a city called Pallantium on what would later become the Palatine Hill of Rome. Gr: eu "well" and "good" + aner "man." 16th C. In Scotland, it has been used to render Iomhar (see Ivar).

Evangeline Y Evangeline first seems to appear in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Evangeline" (1847) as the name of the poem's heroine Evangeline Bellefontaine. It is an elaboration of "evangel" which is an old variant of "evangelist" and also an obsolete term for "gospel" < Biblical Greek euaggeleia "good tidings." Bearers: Evangeline Walton (1907-96), the American fantasy novelist. Evangeline features as the name of a star in Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* (2009). Var: Evangelina.

Eve 9 The usual English form of the Hebrew Hawwah. The meaning is not a hundred percent secure, but most agree that it is most likely "life" or "lively." Eve has to be one of the most maligned of all mythical and legendary women; misogynists have used her so-called "sin" of eating an apple (heinous!) to denounce women for the last two thousand years.

Of course, Eve-according to the Bible-is the ancestress of all humans, and as science advances our knowledge of where the human race came from, it has managed to identify our most recent common matrilineal ancestress who, unsurprisingly, has been named "Eve" (Mitochondrial Eve, to be formal). She lived in Africa some 200,000 years ago. As a given name, Eve has been used since around the twelfth century, after it was introduced in its Latin form EVA. The medieval pet-form was Evot. It received a boost in the sixteenth century, when biblical names were all the rage. "Eve" in English is also another word for EVENING, particularly used for the evening before festivals, notably May Eve, All Hallows' Eve, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve. Yule Eve and Solstice Eve are used by some Pagans.

Evelake cc In Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, Evelake is the name given to a king who is a contemporary of Joseph of Arimathea. He was the first to possess the shield destined for Sir Galahad. The name is almost certainly a much mangled Anglicized form of AFALLACH.

Evelina Y Variant of AVELINA, used by Fanny Burney in her novel *Evelina* (1778). Revived in the late eighteenth century, in the wake of the book.

Evelyn Y a Late medieval form of AVELINA, which gave rise to the surname Evelyn. By the seventeenth century, the girl's name had all but vanished and Evelyn the surname began to be bestowed on boys. The name was resurrected for girls in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Evelyn Waugh (1903-66), the British writer; Evelyn Underhill (1875- 1941), the mystic, pacifist, and writer; Evelyn De Morgan (1855-1919), the Pre-Raphaelite artist, whose work includes *The Love Potion* (1903) and *Medea* (1889). Dim: EVE, EVIE. Var: Evelyne, Eveline, Evelin, Evelynn, Eveleen.

Even c~ Y In the past, Even occurred as a variant of EVAN and EWAN, depending on whether it cropped up in Wales or Scotland. It also saw a

fairly high percentage of its use in Yorkshire and Lancashire, where it almost certainly was a variant of EWAN also. Indeed, it seems to have been the most common form of EWAN still prevailing in "the Old North" in the early nineteenth century. The word "even"-an old form of EVENING-derives from OE: cefen.

Evening Y e The word "evening" comes from OE: cefnung < cefnian "to grow towards evening." Originally, therefore, its meaning was subtly different from EVEN, with emphasis on the transition between day and night, rather than the period between afternoon and night. Periods of transition of any kind are often associated with a thinning of the veil between the worlds, when the natural and supernatural are at their closest and most tangible. Small wonder that even for the least psychically or poetically inclined, the evening holds an allure, a magic; the enchantment of a glorious sunset, lengthening shadows, a ghostly moon slowly but surely crystallizing into a sphere of silver, and the gradual appearance of stars, one by one. Symbolically, evening is frequently used to signify the approach of any end, specifically of life. But in many cultures, a day runs from sunset to sunset, and thus the evening is regarded as a beginning, not just of night as it is in the West, but of a new day. Late 19th C-one example is the delightfully named Evening Dew, born in Cheshire in 1883, who died less than a year later.

Ever Y c~ Ever makes what, at first sight, appears to be a few curiously early appearances in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. However, these are in Ireland, and almost certainly represent survivals of EBER or IVAR. Meanwhile, examples of Ever from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are likely instances of the adoption of the rare English surname, which derives from Old English Eofor "boar"; it survived long enough after the Norman Conquest in the form Evor to generate the surname Evers, Evors, and Ever. Ever's use since the 1960s is most likely to be a direct adoption of the English "ever" meaning "always" and "forever." OE: cefre. Var: Forever. Bearers: Ever Bloom, heroine of Alyson Noel's The Immortals series (2005-).

Everard cc Old English: Eoferheard-eofor "boar" + heard "hardy."
Reinforced by the German cognate Eburhard, which was taken to England

with the Normans. A number of surnames originate from it, notably Everard and EVERETT. Bearers: Sir Everard Digby (c. 1578-1606), one of those involved in Guy Fawkes's plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Everard's Ride (1994) is a collection of stories by Diana Wynne Jones.

Everett Gc English surname, deriving from EVERARD. 18th C.

Everild 2 Old English: Eoforhild-eofor "boar" + hild "battle." "The name of a seventh-century Yorkshire saint; it was in Yorkshire that the name survived the passing centuries best, often in the form AVERIL. Everild was revived in the nineteenth century. Var: Everilda.

Evie ? Pet-form of EVE and EVELYN, used independently since the nineteenth century.

Evita Y Spanish diminutive of EVA. It began to filter into the ESW in the early twentieth century, but was made well known by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's musical Evita (1976), based on the life of Argentine actress and stateswoman Maria Eva Duarte de Peron (1919-52).

Evren a' y Turkish name-evren "universe," "cosmos," and environment."

Ewan, Euan c? Now largely considered the Scottish form of EOGHAN and OWAIN, Ewan was found in parts of "the Old North," particularly Lancashire, from time to time until the name's modern resurgence across the British Isles. Var: Euen, Ewin, Ewing, Ewyn (hist); Euan, Ewen. W: Ewein (hist); Sc Ga: Ebghann. Bearers: Ewan McGregor (b. 1971), the Scottish actor.

Ewart c? An English and Scottish surname, deriving from a medieval form of EDWARD. Since the late nineteenth century, sometimes bestowed in honor of British Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone (1809-98). 18th C.

Exe Y A river in Devon, England, which gives its name to both Exmoor and Exeter. Its name in Roman times was ISCA.

Eydis Y Icelandic name, probably deriving from the Old Norse anon "to fall out by fate," "fortune" + illa "Goddess."

Ezeke Nigerian name. Igbo: eze "king."

Ezekiel e Meaning "May (a) God strengthen" in Hebrew, Ezekiel is a biblical name. 16th C. Dim: Zeke. Bearers: Ezekiel Cheever (1655-aft. 1692), who testified against more than one individual during the Salem Witch trials, and featured in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* (1953).

Ezra cc Biblical name. Heb: `ezra "help." 16th C. Bearers: Ezra Pound (1885-1972), the controversial American-born poet and intellectual.

Faber c~ Dutch, English, French, German, and Swiss surname < L: faber "workman" and "maker"-but specifically "smith." "There is evidence it may have been used as a first name in Britain in medieval times. 17th C.

Fabia ? Feminine form of FABIUS. 17th C. Bearers: Aconia Fabia Paulina (d. 384 CE), a Roman aristocrat who tried to save the Old Religion of Rome. She was an initiate of the Eleusinian Mysteries and a hierophant of Hecate, as well as a devotee of Ceres, the Magna Mater and Isis; Fabia Eudokia (c. 580-612), the Byzantine Empress; Fabia Drake (1904-90) a British actress.

Fabian c? English form of Latin Fabianus "belonging to FABIUS." It wasn't uncommon in Roman times, and was borne by a third-century saint. 12th C. Var: Fabyan. Dut, Get, Pol, Scand: Fabian, Sp: Fabian, It, Port: Fabiano, Fr: Fabien. The Fabian Society is an influential British socialist organization, founded in the nineteenth century.

Fabiana Y Feminine form of FABIAN, used in numerous countries. It is also the name of a genus of shrubs in the nightshade family. 16th C. Fr: Fabienne.

Fabiola 2 Italian form of Fabiula, a feminine diminutive of FABIUS. It was the name of a fourth-century saint commemorated for her association with St. Jerome and her charity work. In the twentieth century, it has seen only a little use outside Italy and Spain, despite (or because of?) being the title of a pious pro-Catholic 1854 novel by (Cardinal) Nicholas Wiseman. Var: Fabilla. Bearers: Queen Fabiola of Belgium (b. 1928), the Spanish-born widow of King Baudoin of Belgium. Port: Fabiula.

Fabius c~ A famous and important Roman gens. Numerous members were consuls, or held other high office during the Roman Republic, and it was famous for being virtually wiped out at the Battle of Cremera in 477 BCE. Only one small boy, who had been too young to fight, is said to have survived to carry on the family line. Probably the most famous of his alleged descendants was Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus Cunctator (c. 280-203 BCE), who was twice Dictator of Rome and played a very large

part in the defeat of Hannibal. His additional surname Cunctator means "delayer," and was bestowed upon him in honor of the delaying tactics he employed, which may have won the Romans the second Punic War. The origin of the name is obscure; in ancient times it was often said to derive from L: faba "bean," and this is a possibility, as other Roman names are known to have derived from legumes (see Cicero). It is also quite possible that its true origin is something entirely different-and not actually Latin. Many Roman families had Etruscan origins. 17th C. It, Sp: Fabio, Port: Fabio.

Fable Y cc Adoption of the word "fable." OF: fable < L: fabula "story." 20th C.

Fabricius c? Roman gens deriving from L: faber "smith." It was used as a surname in Germany during the Renaissance as a translation for Schmidt. 19th C. Fr: Fabrice, Port, Sp: Fabricio, It: Fabrizio.

Fachtna c~ Legendary High King of Ireland. In some versions, he is named as the father of Conchobhar mac Nessa. The etymology is not entirely clear, but it seems likely that it is connected with Jr Ga: fachain "striving" or fachaint "ridicule," the suffix -na may be the emphatic meaning "our."

Fada Y Occitan: fada "fairy."

Fadi c Arabic name-fadi "redeemer." Fem: Fadia.

Fadil c3' Arabic name fadil "virtuous" and "worthy," carrying connotations of great honesty and integrity. Fem: Fadila.

Fahd c~ Arabic name fahd "leopard," "panther," and "lynx."

Faience Y A type of tin-glazed earthenware. It derives from the Italian town of Faenza, which in Roman times was called Faoentia. This is often said to mean "I shine among the Gods" in Etruscan or "a Celtic language"-but this is almost certainly spurious, particularly given the vagueness. Egyptian faience was widely used to make items such as scarabs and statuettes of Gods and Goddesses for the massmarket, as a cheaper alternative to the expensive and highly prized lapis lazuli. It was not

actually made from clay, but from a mixture of sand or crushed quartz and lime. When used to replicate lapis lazuli, copper pigments were added to the glaze to produce the greenish-blue finish. Var: Fayence.

Faina ? Russian name-also used in Belarus-of uncertain heritage. Faina Ranevskaya (1896-1984) was one of Russia's most celebrated actresses, who is largely responsible for the name's use in the twentieth century. It also occurs in Aleksander Blol's Song of Fate (1908). It has been suggested that this derives from PHAENNA, although why such an obscure name should have been plucked from Greek mythology by Russians is difficult to explain. Ranevskaya

herself, however, was Jewish by birth, and examples from late nineteenth-century Poland are likewise Jewish. A plausible possibility, therefore, is that it simply evolved from FANNY, which was used among the Jewish community in Germany from the eighteenth century-a famous example being Felix Mendelssohn's sister Fanny Hensel (1805-47). Var: Fayina.

Fainche 2 A minor character in Irish mythology. Sc Ga: fainche "fox" <fann "weal" and "feeble" + cu "dog."

Fairfax c~ 2 English surname. OE: f&ger "fair" + feax "hair." Members of the Fairfax family were particularly prominent in the seventeenth century; Sir Thomas Fairfax, later 3rd Baron Fairfax (1612-71), was a prominent Parliamentarian during the English Civil War. 17th C. Bearers: Fairfax Moresby (1786-1877), a British Admiral; Edward Fairfax Rochester is the full name of the broody Mr Rochester in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre (1847).

Fairy 2 e The English surname Fairy-OE: f&ger "fair" + Rage "eye"-is responsible for much of the use as Fairy as a given name from the eighteenth century or so, and it was bestowed as a middle name on both boys and girls in the nineteenth. By the end of that century, its use was mostly female and often a first name, making it likely that the word "fairy" was being used. It originally meant "the land of the FAY" i.e. "fairy-land"; it only came to be used of the supernatural being itself towards the end of the fourteenth century. It has actually become rarer as a name in the

twentieth century than it was in the nineteenth-probably because "fairy" has since become a slang term for a homosexual. Var: Faerie, Fairey.

Faisal c Arabic name fsal "arbiter" or "arbitrator." Bearers: Prince Faisal of Mecca, later King Faisal I of Iraq (1883- 1933), the leader of the Arab Revolt during the First World War. Var: Faysal, Faizel.

Faith Y English: "faith. " Although the word is now most often associated with Christian faith, or used synonymously for "religion," its original meaning was simply "belief," "trust," or "confidence" < L: fides "trust," "reliance," "belief," and "faith." St. Faith is an alleged third-century saint. 16th C. Fr: Foi, Foy, Sp: Fe, Port: Fe. Bearers: Faith Lehane, a character in the American television series *Buy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003).

Faithful (' Y English: "faithful." 16th C. Originally used mostly for boys, now seen more for girls. It featured in John Bunyans *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678).

Faivish c' A Yiddish name of uncertain origins, traditionally said to derive from PHOEBUS.'This is not impossible, as by the first century CE, Greek had become the common language across the Middle East. It is also possible, however, that it developed from a German, Old Prussian, or Polish source, becoming identified with Phoebus in retrospect. Dim: Fayvel, Feivel.

Faiz e Faiz is used as the English transliteration of two Arabic names. Ar: faad "flood" and "abundance," and Ar: faaz "victorious"-which is more accurately transliterated as Faaiz and is connected with FAWZ. Fem: Faiza, Faaiza, Fayza.

Fajar cc y Malaysian name. Malay:fajar "dawn."

Falco ci Latin: falco "falcon."The name was used in Roman times as a cognomen. It was used in the Middle Ages, but did not survive in general use, though Falk remained in use in the European Jewish community. Revived 20th C. Bearers: Quintus Pompeius Falco (fl. 118-22 CE), a governor of Roman Britain; Marcus Didius Falco, the hero of Lindsey Davis's Falco novels (1989-).

Falcon c~ Latin: FALCO.'The surname derives from the OF: faucon "falcon," from the same source. 19th C. See also Hawk.

Falconer c~ English surname. OF: faulconnier "one who hunts with falcons," "one who trains falcons," and "one who follows falconry" < L. FALCO.18th C.

Falda Y Short form of Mafalda-the Italian and Portuguese form of MATILDA. In Italian falda means "brim," "layer," and "flake (of snow)." It also means "skirt" in Spanish, and is used in the same way as in English for both the garment and as a slang term for a girl. OG:fald "fold" cognate with ON: falda "to array with a woman's hood"; the faldafeykir was a magical dance in which the hoods flew off the dancers' heads.

Fall c' 2 Fall is the season of the ageing year; with the harvest gathered in, thoughts naturally turn inward as people prepare for the long dark winter ahead. Even in our modern world with electric lights, central heating and a constant supply of fresh food from around the world, there can be no escaping the signs of the approaching year's end with the drawing in of the nights, and the turning of the leaves and their falling from the trees. In much of the ESW, the season is called autumn, but fall-pure and simply the English fall as in "to fall"-was commonly used in England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and reflects rather more vividly the season's position on the other side of the Wheel of the Year to the spring.'The surname Fall derives from ME: fall "waterfall." 18th C.

Fallon Y c Irish surname. Anglicized form of O Fallamhain "descendant of Fallamhan," a byname said to derive from follamhnas "rule" or "supremacy." However, it could quite easily come from folamh "empty" or "vacant" + dim. suffix -an. It was made well known through the character Fallon Carrington Colby in the American soap opera Dynasty (1981-89).

Fancy ? g Fancy developed during the eighteenth century as a variant of FANNY-probably influenced by NANCYbut it quickly became associated with English "fancy."This emerged in the fifteenth century as a contraction of FANTASY, and was used of all things supernatural (such as ghosts), illusory or imaginary in any sense, as well as "caprice" or "whim."The origins of the surname aren't entirely clear. Some use is as an Anglicized

form of the Irish O Fionnghusa "descendant of Fionnghus." Fionnghus is an Old Irish name < fionn + gus "courage." Bearers: Fancy Crane, a character in the American television series Passions (1999-2008).

Fand Y Fand is a sea Goddess and wife of Mannanan. In later Irish myth, she was regarded as a queen of the fairies. The meaning isn't entirely clear. There was an Old Irish word fand meaning "pearl," but the name may originally derive from fann "weak," cognate with the English wan "pale." Var: Fann.

Fane cc English surname. OE: &gen "glad" and "well-disposed." There is evidence it was used as a given name in the medieval period, as well as a sobriquet. 19th C. Var: Fayne, Vane, Vayne.

Fania ? A short form of Stefania, the Italian form of STEPHANIE. Fania is also a species of moth. It has been used in the ESW from time to time, though pre-nineteenth century examples may have been intended as FANNIA. Ru: Fanya.

Fannia Y The name of a Roman woman much praised by Pliny the Younger in the first century CE. Feminine of Fannius, a Roman gens. It may be connected with the Latin fanum, used of a place consecrated to a God, i.e. a temple with land around it. 18th C.

Fanny Y Pet-form of FRANCES. Like many names which enjoyed immense popularity in the past, it was taken up as a slang term—in this case, for the female genitals in Britain (from the late nineteenth century) and for the backside in America (from the early twentieth century). 18th C. Bearers: Frances "Fanny" Burney (1752-1840), the English novelist.

Fantasy y Old French: fantasie < L/Gr: phantasia "a making visible" < phantazo "to make visible." The word was originally used in English of an image in the mind, later coming to mean "illusion" and "imagination" and "product of the imagination." 19th C. Var: Phantasy, Fantasie, Fantasia, Phantasia.

Faoiltiarna y c~ Old Irish: faol "wolf" + tighearna "lord" or "mistress" (it could mean either in the past). Now treated as feminine, with Faoiltiarn

treated as masculine-it is clear people don't really have a clue whether the original bearer (if they ever really lived as a mortal and this wasn't simply a divine epithet) was male or female.'The individual concerned is a very obscure saint, whose feast day is March 17-sometimes called St. Faoiltiarn (a man) and sometimes St. Faoiltiarna (a woman). Var: Faoiltighearna.

Faolan a Old Irish:fdel "wolf" + dim. suffix -dn. There are two shadowy saints of the name. One of them has their feast day on June 20. He healed the sick and had a luminous left arm. Anglicized as Fillan, Filan, and Phillan. Var: Faelan. See also Phelan.

Fara 2 Most of Fara's usage in the twentieth century has been as a variant of FARAH. However, Fara is also the name of a small island in the Orkneys. ON: Frey fer "sheep" + eg "island."The word fara also has a number of meanings in other languages, such as "parsonage" in Czech, "parish church" in Polish, "travel" and "peril" in Swedish, "lighthouse" or "youngest child" in Malagasy, and "hunt" in Quenya. In Hausa, it means "on the back" and is used in the exclamation an yi fara! said in a particular gambling game involving cowrie shells when all the cowries fall with the slit uppermost (the best outcome)-thus the expression is used figuratively to mean "luck."

Farah y e Arabic name-farah "joy" and "delight."

Faraja 2 Swahili: faraja "consolation."

Faramir d' The name of the younger of the two sons of Denethor, Steward of Gondor in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. The intended meaning is not known, as Tolkien never explained it. However, it is probably safe to say that the inspiration came from names such as Faramond and Casimir. Late 20th C.

Faramond c Old German name fora "journey" + mund "protection." It was borne by the legendary first king of France.'The Normans brought it to Britain.'The king features in the thirteenth-century Prose Tristan, and is mentioned in Shakespeare's Henry V. Var: Faramund, Pharamond. It: Faramondo.

Farid c3' Arabic name farid "unique" and "precious." Fem: Farida.

Faris c? Arabic name faris "horseman" or knight."

Farrah Y Most of Farrah's use is in the Islamic world, where it is a variant of FARAH. However, in 1976 it leapt into use in the ESW from almost nowhere purely on account of the American actress Farrah Fawcett (1947-2009), who shot to fame in that year because of the huge success of the American television series Charlie's Angels (1976-81). Fawcett herself said that her mother made her name up because it went well with her last name.

Farrell C? Used as a given name since the eighteenth century, mostly in Ireland, Farrell is the modern form taken by two surnames of entirely separate origins. The English Farrell is a variant of the surname Farewell meaning simply "fare well."The Irish is an Anglicized form of O Fearghaill meaning "descendant of FERGAL."

Fastred cc Old German name fast "firm" + rad "counsel." It was in use in Germany in the Middle Ages but appears then to have fallen out of use. Used by Tolkien in The Lord of the Rings for two characters-a Prince of Rohan, and a hobbit who marries Samwise Gamgee's daughter Elanor.

Fata Y Italian: fata "fairy" < L: fata, the plural of fatum "that which has been spoken"-i.e. fate. It was used of the Fates. Fata was much used in Italian medieval romances-a notable example being Fata Morgana, the Italian equivalent of Morgan le Fay.

Fate Y In name terms, Fate is the poor relation of Destiny, although in ordinary English the two are by and large used interchangeably. L: fatum "that which has been spoken." In the plural, Fata was another name of the Fates-they were usually called Parcae. To what extent life is predestined and what occurs within it "fate," and to what extent we are mistresses and masters of our own destinies, is a question which divides Pagans as much as everyone else, but fate remains a powerful and evocative concept. Late 20th C.

Fatima 2 A well-known Arabic name, deriving from a verb meaning "to wean," although it is often interpreted as meaning "abstinence." It was the

name of a daughter of Mohammed. Fatima is also the name of a Portuguese town-which purports to take its name from the Arabic where there is a shrine to the Virgin Mary. In the early twentieth century, three children from Fatima claimed to have seen visions of the Virgin there. This has led to Mary acquiring yet another title-"Our Lady of Fatima"-and Fatima has been bestowed by Catholics accordingly. Var: Fatimah.

Fatin Y Arabic name-fatin "charming," "glamorous," or "infatuating." Var: Fateen, Fatinah.

Fatua Y Another name for Fauna as consort of Faunus in his prophesying aspect Fatuus. L: fatuus "speaking by inspiration" < fatuor "to be inspired."

Faun c~ Y English: faun-used of the mythological beings, part man, part goat, since the fourteenth century. L: FAUNUS. The surname derives from FAWN. 17th C. Var: Fawn. Faun is a German Pagan folk band (2002-).

Fauna 2 Roman fertility Goddess, the sister of Faunus. She is associated with the Bona Dea, Ops, and Terra Mater, and was also called Fatua. Linnaeus adopted her name for Fauna Suecica (1746)-his treatise on animal classificationsince which time her name has been used as a term to refer to all animal life. 17th C. Var: Fawna, Faunia, Fawnia. Fawnia appears in Robert Greene's prose romance Pandosto: The Triumph of Time (1588), which was re-titled Dorastus and Fawnia in 1607, and was the source of Shakespeare's A Winter's Tale.

Faunus c~ The Roman Horned God of forests, equated with Pan and Lupercus. In Roman legend he was king of Latium when Aeneas arrived in Italy from Troy. Under the name of Fatuus (see Fatua), he was consulted as a God of prophecy in more than one location around Rome itself, including at a sacred grove at Tibur. He was said to reveal the future in the dreams of those who slept on sheepskins in his precincts. The Faunalia was celebrated on February 13 and December 5.

Faust c~ The name of the famous character from German legend, immortalized by Christopher Marlowe in his Doctor Faustus (1594), who was said to have sold his soul to the Christian "devil" in exchange for knowledge. Other wellknown interpretations of the legend include Goethe's

Faust (1808,1832) and Gounod's opera Faust (1859). Some of the most dramatic visual representations of the legend are the hundred or so Faust Paintings (1976-79) by Nabil Kanso. The real man behind the legend was the German magician, astrologer and alchemist Johann George Faust (1480-c. 1540), to whom a number of grimoires are ascribed. L: FAUSTUS. Late 20th C.

Faustina 2 Feminine of Faustinus-"belonging to FAUSTUS." Faustina was a widespread name in Roman times, in particular associated with a number of women of the NervaAntonine dynasty, among them the wives of the Emperors Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius.'There are also a couple of saints of the name, who ensured that the name continued to be used after Roman times-especially in Italy and Spain. Fr: Faustine. 18th C.

Faustus e Latin: faustus "of favorable omen," "auspicious," and "lucky." Faustus was a fairly common Roman cognomen, used in particular by the gens Cornelia, who also used it as a first name, e.g. Faustus Cornelius Sulla (81-46 BCE), who was killed during the war between Caesar and Pompey. 17th C.

Favonius e Connected with L: faveo "to be favorable," Favonius is the name of the Roman God of the West Wind and is equated with the Greek Zephyrus. It was also a Roman family name. Marcus Favonius (c. 90-42 BCE) was a Roman politician who features in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. 19th C.

Favor Y c Favor carries meanings of "good will," "regard," and "partiality," and has connotations of princesses bestowing their favors upon their errant knights. L: favor "favor." 17th C. Var: Favour.

Fawkes c' English surname, deriving from FALCO. 19th C-sometimes given in honor of the English revolutionary Guy Fawkes (1570-1606), one of the key ring-leaders of the Gunpowder Plot of November 5, 1605.'This event is still commemorated in Britain with bonfires and fireworks. Some believe these represent a Christian rehabilitation of the Pagan bonfires of Samhain, a few days earlier.

Fawn 2 The English fawn comes from OF:faon < L: foetus "offspring." At first it was applied to any young animal; since the fourteenth century, it has been specifically associated with the young of deer.'The surname derives from the same source. 17th C. Var: FAUN.

Fawnie Y Romani:fawnie "finger ring."

Fawz 9 Arabic name-fawz "victory." Closely related is Fawzi "victorious" and "successful." Var: Fawzy.

Fay Y c~ Fay is found as a given name from the sixteenth century. Early examples, however, have nothing to do with fairies, but are adoptions of the now obsolete word fay "faith." Some examples, especially from later centuries and upon boys, may also be transferences of the surname.'This derives in part from Fay in France-L:fagus "beech tree"and in part from OF:fae "fairy" < FATA. As time went on, Fay also came to be used as a pet-form of FAITH. Only since the nineteenth century is it likely that the English fay "fairy" (also deriving from the Old French) was taken up; the sorceress Morgan le Fay was a favorite with Victorian writers and artists. Var: Faye, Fae, Fey, Fee. Bearers: Franklin "Fay" Weldon (b. 1931), the British novelist; Faye Dunaway (b. 1941), the American actress.

Fayruz Y Arabic name fairuz "turquoise." Var: Fairuz. Persian: Firouzeh.

Fearchar c Scots Gaelic name. 01: fer "man" + cara "loved." Anglicized as Farquhar. One Fearchar was the founder of Clan Lamont.

Feardorcha ' Old Irish name fer "man" + dorch "dark." Rendered into English in the past with Ferdinand. Bearers: Feardorcha O Cellaigh (fl. 1584-aft. 1611), last king of Ui Maine.

Fearless 2 cc English "fearless." 18th C.

Fearn Y e Ogham name for the alder. CC: *werno-. Its Ogham month is from March 18 to April 14. Also used as a variant of FERN.

Feather ? The English surname Feather derives from OE: feoer "feather"-used largely of someone who dealt in feathers, but also as a nickname for

someone who was as "light as a feather." Feathers are rich in symbolism; an emblem of the wind, the element of Air and all its associations. The motif of the feathered cloak features in Celtic mythology as a symbol of communion and affinity with the sky Gods. Feathered cloaks were worn by ancient Druids in rituals to gain celestial wisdom, allowing the wearer to cross between realms. Feathers held a similar meaning in some Native American traditions, symbolizing the union with spirit and wisdom, particularly by a tribe's chief. Meanwhile, in Ancient Egyptian belief, the God 'Thoth weighed a feather from the Goddess Ma'at against a deceased's heart when judging their worthiness. Many people today, Pagan and non-Pagan alike, regard white feathers they encounter as "angels' feathers," symbols of hope and encouragement from angels or other spirits of goodwill. 18th C.

Fechin c? A variant of FIACHAN, Fechin of Fore is a seventh-century Irish saint. Var: Feichin.

Fedelma Y The usual English form of Irish Gaelic Feidhelm. The meaning is uncertain-it may well be connected to the male name FELIM. In the Cattle Raid of Cooley, Fedelm is the name of a female Druid who foretells the defeat of the forces of Connacht. Another famous bearer was a daughter of Conchobhar mac Nessa. Fedelma has seen a fair amount of usage in Ireland in the twentieth century, and occasionally occurs elsewhere. Var: Fidelma.

Fee Y c~ Short form of FELICITY. Fee is also an English surname < OF: fee "fief." In German, fee means "fairy," cognate with the French fee. Fee has been used in the ESW since the twentieth century.

Fei Y cc Chinese name. Mand: fei "green jade" or "kingfisher"; fei "crescent moon"; fti "dark red" or "purple silk"; fei "fall of snow"; fti "fragrant." Var: Fei-Fei.

Feige 2 Yiddish name-fegyl "bird" < Ger: vogel "bird." Var: Fayge.

Feldspar (' The word "feldspar" derives from Ger:feld "field" + spat(h) "spar"-i.e. "crystalline mineral." It is composed of a silicate of alumina and various impurities such as lime or potash. The word has been used in

English since the eighteenth century to designate a common family of crystals which occur in rocks.

Felec One of Cornwall's many obscure saints, said to have lived in the sixth century. Also known as Phillack and **FELIX**, he has at times even been mixed up with St. Felicity. He was said to have a particular affinity with all felines, though whether this arose simply because of the similarity of his name to the Latin *feles* "cat"-or vice versa-isn't all that easy to say. Some believe he is simply a garbled version of the Breton St. Felix, others that he represents the Cornish King Felix who appears in the thirteenth-century *Prose Tristan*.

Felice a' 2 As a male name, Felice is the Italian form of **FELIX**. The girl's name is a medieval variant of **FELICIA**, and was much confused in the past with **PHYLLIS**. There is a character called Felice in William Langland's fourteenth-century *Piers Plowman*, and it also features in the legends surrounding Guy of Warwick as the name of his beloved later his wife.

Felicia Y Feminine form of the Late Latin name *Felicius*, itself a development of **FELIX**. There was an obscure saint of the name, said to be third century. In the Middle Ages, Felicia was often used in the vernacular forms **FELICE** and *Felis*. Bearers: Felicia Hemans (1793-1835), the English poet. Fr: *Felicie*.

Felicity 2 Felicity came into use in the sixteenth century, an adoption of the English "felicity" meaning "intense happiness" or "bliss" < L: *felicitas* "happiness" and "fruitfulness" < **FELIX**. *Felicitas* is the name of a Roman Goddess, the personification of happiness and good fortune. It is probable that the second-century St. *Felicitas*-sometimes called St. Felicity-is simply the Goddess turned into a saint. Dim: Flick, Fee, Fliss, Liccy, Licie, Lis, Liss, Lissie, etc. Sp: *Felicidad*, Port: *Felicidade*, It: *Felicita*, Ger: *Felizitas*. Bearers: Felicity Kendall (b. 1946), the British actress.

Felim e Anglicized form of Irish Gaelic *Feiolim* or *Feidhlim*, itself a variant of *Feidlimid* or *Feidhlimidh*. St. Felim is said to have been a sixth-century Irish saint of Kilmore in County Cahan, and there was also an early fourteenth-century king of Connacht of the name. Meanwhile, a number of sixth-century figures associated with Munster go by the name *Feidlimid*-

sometimes Anglicized as Felimy. The meaning of the name is uncertain. The traditional etymology has it meaning "beauty" or "ever good," but this is tenuous. The first element may be connected with CC: *wed-o- "to lead" or "to bring together" (from which OI: feidid derived); another option is OI: faidh "prophet" or faidhiul "wise" < CC: *wfti- "sooth-sayer" or "prophet." The second element could be *l(Emo- "elm" or even *flfmf "palm" or "hand" (modern Irish ldmh).

Felix e The original meaning of felix in Latin was "fruitbearing" and "fertile," from a root cognate with Gr: phuo "to make grow" or "to produce," and connected to L: fio "to become," fecundus "fertile," fetus "pregnant" and "offspring" and even femina "woman." The word was used in Pagan religious language of the trees whose fruits were offered to the foremost Gods. Its meanings of "auspicious," "favorable," "fortunate," and ultimately "happy" developed early, and it was a common cognomen in the Roman period. Testimony to its commonness (and its auspiciousness) is the fact that there are more than fifteen saints of the name. Despite the number of saints reaching almost buy-one-get-one-free quantities, the name wasn't much used in Britain in the medieval period. Bearers: the German composer Felix Mendelssohn (whose full name was Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, 1809-47); Felix Harrowgate, a wizard in Sarah Monette's The Doctrine of Labyrinths series (2005-9).

Fell e The word "fell" is used of the hills and mountains of the North-West of England. ON: fiall "fell," deriving ultimately from a root meaning "rock." This is the source of the surname Fell, which is encountered as a given name from the eighteenth century. Fell is also a Romani male name, used from at least the nineteenth century, but the origin is unknown.

Ferri cc Y Nigerian name. Yoruba: fe "love" + mi "me." It is often used as a short form of Olufemi "(a) God loves me." Femi is also a Romani girl's name in use since at least the nineteenth century, which probably developed from EUPHEMIA.

Fen 2 Fen's use as a name remains mostly as a short form for other names, most notably FENELLA, but also former surnames such as FENTON. It has, however, been used as a name in its own right since the eighteenth century, probably as a variant of FENN. The word "fen" means "marshland"

or "bog," and is used specifically of the Fens in East Anglia, England, which though now mostly drained, still retain their bleak, remote, and slightly otherworldly atmosphere.

Fenella 2 Anglicized form of FIONNUALA. It was made better known outside Ireland when Sir Walter Scott used it for a character in *Peveril of the Peak* (1823). Var: Finola. Dim: FEN. Bearers: Fenella the Kettle Witch (who is actually portrayed as Welsh rather than Irish) features in the British children's television series *Charlton and Wheelies* (1976-79); Fenella Feverfew is a character in Jill Murphy's *Worst Witch* series (1974-2007).

Feng cc Chinese name. Mand: feng "wind." In Taoism, Wind is one of the eight principles of reality, represented by symbols known as "trigrams." It can also be feng "beacon fire," feng "bee" or "wasp," and feng "abundant" and "lush."

Fenicia Y The name of the princess in Giambattista Basile's fairy-tale "The Enchanted Doe" (1634). The origin isn't entirely clear, but Fenicia is the Italian (and Spanish) form of Phoenicia (see Phoenix)-and this seems the most likely source.

Fenn c~ English surname. OE: fenn "marshland" and "bog." 17th C.

Fennel c' 2 Fennel's use as a given name dates to the eighteenth century, and represents a transferred use of the surname, though it mostly derives from the same source as the plant-OE:finugl "fennel" < L: foeniculum, being originally used of someone who grew-or perhaps used a lot of-fennel. In Ireland, Fennel is a variant of FitzNeal (see Neil). Fennel itself is a native of the Mediterranean, believed to have been spread around Europe by the Romans. A herb of Mercury, Fire, and Virgo, it has long been valued for its medicinal and magical properties. Fennel seeds are valued for protection and for easing indigestion. They are also good for coughs and wheezing and are a good tonic for the liver and the blood. When Prometheus stole fire from the Gods, he hid it in a stalk of fennel-although it may have been the giant fennel which was meant (see *Ferula*). Fennel is one of the herbs featured in the tenth-century "Nine Herbs Charm," a Pagan incantation to cure infection or poisoning, which runs thus: "A snake came crawling, it bit a man./Men Woden took nine glory-twigs/Smote the

serpent that it flew into nine parts./ There apple brought this pass against poison,/"That she nevermore would enter her house. " 18th C. Var: Fennell.

Fenrir c~ Fenrir or Fenris is the name of the wolf of Norse mythology destined to kill Odin in the final great battle of Raganok-but to be killed by Odin's son Vidar in return. The brother of the Goddess Hel, his jaws are so large that when he opens them one jaw touches the Earth and the other the sky. His name is traditionally said to mean "marsh dweller," but Fenrir's development seems to be quite late in Norse mythology. Fenris is probably the older form, altered by metathesis from a proposed *Fernis.'This was probably to give it a semblance of a meaning in Norse (i.e. the "fen" bit). Quite possibly its true source is L: infernus, which by that period meant "of Hell."Thus Fenrir could have emerged as an "infernal" monster such as found rampaging around at the "End of the World" in the Book of Revelation. Another name for him is Fenrisulfr. This is usually translated as "Fenris the wolf" but perhaps it represents a hybrid compound and its true meaning is simply "infernal wolf" Christian missionaries in the Dark Ages were probably no different to evangelizers today, attempting to win converts with the carrot-and-stick approach, and it is easy to see how tales of hellish beasts might filter into Pagan societies. It is important to remember that Norse religion at the time was not fixed in stone, any more than any ancient form of Paganism-it was a living mythology, constantly shifting, changing, and adapting, and it is perfectly plausible that it absorbed such a creature from Christendom to the south. Bearers: Fenrir Greyback, a wizard-werewolf in Rowling's Harry Potter novels.

Fenton c~ English and Scottish surname, deriving from one of the places of the name. OE: fenn "marshland" or "bog" + tun. 17th C.

Feral ' 2 English adjective meaning "wild" and "untamed." L: fer "wild beast." A second much rarer "feral," meaning "deadly" and "fatal," derives from the Latin feralis "pertaining to funeral rites/the dead.-The surname is a variant of FARRELL. 19th C.

Feray Y Turkish name-fer "radiance," "luster," and "brightness" + ay "moon."

Ferdinand cc Old German: fart "journey" + nanj5- "courage" and "venture." This was a favorite among the Visigoths, and it thus became particularly established in Spain. There is a bit of a question mark over the first element- some prefer to derive it from frithu "peace." It was found in Britain in the Middle Ages in the French form Ferrand. It returned as Ferdinand in the sixteenth century. In Ireland, it used to be employed to translate Feardorcha. Var: Ferrant, Farrand (hist) Dim: Fardy, Ferdy. It, Sp: FERDINANDO, Sp: Fernando, Hernando, Fernan, Hernan, Port: Fernao, Cat: Ferran. The Story of Ferdinand (1937) is a children's classic by Munro Leaf, in which Ferdinand is a bull who likes to sit under a tree smelling flowers.

Ferdinando c~ Spanish form of FERDINAND, adopted by the English aristocracy in the mid-sixteenth century, having been introduced by Philip II of Spain and his courtiers after the Spanish king's marriage to "Bloody" Queen Mary. Although history calls him Ferdinand, Ferdinand of Hapsburg (1503-63)-who became Holy Roman Emperor in 1558-was born in Spain as Ferdinando. He was Philip's paternal uncle.

Ferelith Y Anglicized form of the Gaelic Forbhlaith. 01: fir "true" + flaith "sovereignty" and "ruler." It was the name of one of the two heiresses of an early thirteenth-century Earl of Atholl. It does not seem to have survived the Middle Ages, but was re-adopted in the late nineteenth century-an early example being Ferelith Ramsay (1882-1951), daughter of Sir James Henry Ramsay, 10th Baronet, of Bamff, Perthshire. The novel Ferelith (1903) by Victor Hay, 21st Earl of Errol, is probably responsible for making the name a little better known. Errol bestowed the name upon his own daughter a year later-Lady Rosemary Constance Ferelith Hay (1904-44). Bearers: Lady Anne Ferelith Fenella BowesLyon (1917-80), later Princess Anne of Denmark, a niece of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Var: Forflissa, Fernelith, Forveleth.

Feretrius c~ Epithet of Jupiter, under which name spoils of war were offered. L: ferio "to strike" and "to hit."

Fergal c? English form of Irish Gaelic Fearghal-01: fer "man" + gal "valor." It was borne by a number of figures in early Irish history, such as Fergal

mac Made Duin, High King of Ireland (d. 722 CE). Var: Fearghall. Bearers: Fergal Keane (b. 1961), the Irish writer.

Fergus c~ Anglicized form of Gaelic Fearghus or Fearghas, a name popular in both medieval Ireland and Scotland. OI: fer "man" + gus "courage." The name all but disappeared in Ireland between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, but remained in continuous use in Scotland, and spread across the ESW from the late nineteenth century. 'Me Hon. Fergus Bowes-Lyon (1889-1915) was a brother of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Fern 2 Old English: fearn < PIE: *porno- "wing" and "feather"-a reference to the shape of a fern frond. Ferns are among the oldest living things on the planet, having evolved around 250 million years ago. According to Russian and Polish tradition, the eve of Ivan Kupala-Summer Solstice-is said to be the only night of the year when the fern blooms, and in Russia and Poland, couples go out into the woods to look for them (this is the excuse, anyway). In Gogol's The Eve of Ivan Kupala, the finding of one of these legendary flowers brings the finder no fortune; the story was the inspiration for Modest Mussorgsky's Night on a Bare/Bald Mountain (1886). In Finland, the seed of the fern flower found on Midsummer Night is said to be a powerful talisman, which will bestow invisibility upon the finder and enable them to discover Aarnivalkea-places where an eternal fire similar to the English will-o'-the-wisp burn-beneath which faerie treasure lies. In folk-medicine, ferns have sometimes been used to clean and treat wounds and can be used as a bandage. Magically, ferns are known for their potent powers of protection, and are ruled by Mercury and Air. Fern is also a surname, used originally for someone who dwelt near ferns. 19th C. Var: FEARN, Fearne. Bearers: Fern, the little girl in E. B. White's Charlottes Web (1952).

Fernanda Y Spanish feminine form of FERDINAND. 19th C.

Fernley c~ Y English surname, from Farnley in Yorkshire, England. OE: fearn "fern" + leah. 18th C. For some reason, it has seen most use in Devon and Cornwall, where the first examples are found in Plymouth in the late 1870s. Var: Fearnley.

Feronia 2 A Roman fertility Goddess of Sabine origins, particularly associated with the harvest. The origin of her name isn't entirely clear, but it is probably cognate in some way with L: fero "to bear." In Roman times, she was equated with the Goddess Libertas (see Liberty), and was considered a patroness of freedmen. In Etruscan Roman Remains in Popular Tradition (1892), Charles Leland recorded vestiges in Tuscany of her worship in legends surrounding a Witch called Feronia. Late 18th C.

Ferrers c~ English surname of Norman origin, deriving from one of the places in France called Ferrieres. Fr: fer "iron"-referring to the iron-working industry. One branch of the family became Earls of Derby. Bearers: Katherine Ferrers (1634-60), mistress of Markyate Cell, Hertfordshire, who may be the historic personage behind the legendary "Wicked Lady Ferrers"-a notorious highwaywoman who was said to have died of wounds sustained in a robbery and to haunt her ancestral home. She was never actually "Lady Ferrers"; her husband became 2nd Viscount Fanshawe following the death of his father in 1665, five years after she died. The story was the inspiration for the classic 1945 film The Wicked Lady. 17th C. Var: Ferris.

Ferrish c~ ? Manx:ferrish "elf" or "naughty child."

Ferula Y Latin: frula "giant fennel" < ferus "wild" and "uncultivated" + fem. dim. suffix -ula-thus: "little wild one." Ferula also meant "staff" or "rod," because stalks of the giant fennel were often used for such things. The "thyrsus" (a type of wand or staff) carried by worshippers of Dionysus is believed to have been made from a giant fennel stalk. Asafoetida and muskroot, both prized for their medicinal properties, are also members of the giant fennel family. Asafoetida in particular has potent anti-viral qualities (most recently, Chinese researchers have reported that its roots contain compounds that can kill swine flu); it is also valued for its ability to aid digestion and soothe digestive complaints, and is considered effective in the treatment of asthma.

Festus ' Latin:festus "belonging to the holidays"-and so also both "solemn" and "merry," depending on the context. The latter became its principal meaning, along with "festive" and "joyful." It was a common Roman cognomen-its bestknown bearer being the Pagan procurator of Judaea c.

58-62 CE, whose name appears in the Bible as Porcius Festus. Interestingly, the obscure St. Festus celebrates his feast day on December 21.17th C.

Fethnaid 2 Irish Gaelic name of uncertain derivation. The second element is simply a form of the fem. dim. suffix -nait. The first has several intriguing possibilities. It may be 01: frith-a word of two meanings from separate origins; the first is a kind of twining plant (what, precisely, is unknown) and the other "stream." Another strong contender is 01: fath "prophecy." Most likely is feth "mist," an Old Irish word also found in the expression feth fiada, literally "lord of the mist"-a magical mist also known as "Druid's Fog," which gave invisibility and allowed those it enshrouded to take animal form. In myth, Fethnaid was the daughter of Fidach, the bard of the Tuatha De Danann. She was an accomplished harpist, and her death was regarded as one of the "Three Great Losses" of the Tuatha. Var: Fethnat.

Feverel c Y English surname, from Anglo-Norman: feverell "February" < OF: fevrier < L: Februarius "February" < februa "expiatory rites" and "purification offerings"-a reference to the fact that in Pagan Rome, the month of February was a month dedicated to cleansing and purification.

Feya Y Russian: feya "fairy."

Ffawyddden Y Welsh:Jawyddden "beech."

Ffion Y Modern Welsh form of FIONA. In Welsh,ffion means "red flowers"-specifically "foxgloves," but also "roses" < CC: *spionV- "foxglove." Ffionwen is a recent elaboration, combining Ffion with gwyn. Mid-20th C.

Fflamddwyn c' Welsh:fflamddwyn "flame-bearer." A character of the name appears in medieval poems attributed to Taliesin.

Fflur 2 Modern Welsh name inspired by FLEUR. W: fur "flowers." Mid-20th C.

Ffrancis c~ Modern Welsh form of FRANCIS-although in the seventeenth century, it was found in the English counties of Lancashire, Shropshire,

Worcestershire, and Yorkshire simply as a variant spelling. 20th C.

Fiachan C' Traditional Irish name deriving from fiach "raven" + dim. suffix -dn. It was the name of a seventh-century saint. Var: FECHIN.

Fiachna c~ Like Fiachan, Fiachna derives from the Irish fiach "raven." The -na may represent simply a development of the diminutive suffix -dn, or it may be the emphatic suffix -na meaning "our." It was borne by two eighth-century Irish kings. Var: Fiachnae.

Fiachra c~ The etymology of Fiachra is not clear. It is possibly a combination of fiach "raven" + dr "battle." Anglicized as Fiacre, which is the form by which the three saints of the name are known-and they appear to be thoroughly mixed up. One of them-a misogynist regarded as a patron saint of gardeners-is also revered in France.

Fiadhnaid 2 Irish Gaelic name-fiadh "deer" + fem. dim. suffix -nait. It is borne by two saints. Var: Fiadnat, Fianait.

Fialka Y Czech name-fialka "violet."

Fiammetta 2 Italian: fiammetta "little flame." Fiammetta was the pseudonym Giovanni Boccaccio used for the object of his affections, and he also used it in the Decameron. Early 20th C. Fiamma-It:fiamma "flame"-has been used in Italy since the nineteenth century, and elsewhere in the twentieth.

Fiaray 2 The English name of the Island of Fiaraidh in the Western Isles of Scotland. A drying reef which surrounds it is said to be the abode of fairies.'The name may derive from Sc Ga:fiar "crooked."

Fiayosemi c? Y Nigerian name. Yoruba: fiayosemi "mold me with joy."

Fidan y Turkish name-fidan "sapling" and "young tree."

Fidda y Arabic name fiddah "silver." Var: Fizza.

Fidel c? Spanish name. L: Fidelis "faithful." Unsurprisingly, there is an early saint of the name. It did not find its way to Britain in the Middle

Ages, but established itself in Spain and Italy. It: Fedele, Fidelio. Fidelio was made famous by Beethoven's only opera of 1805, and was not much used in Italy before it. A few examples of Fidelis and Fidelius are found in the ESW from the sixteenth century, and Fidel and Fidelio occur from the nineteenth.

Fidelia Y Latin: fidelis "faithful." Late 16th C. A character called Fidelia features in Spenser's *Faerie Queene*. Fidelia (1615) is a love elegy by George Wither; the name also features in William Wycherley's play *The Plain Dealer* (1676) and Puccini's opera *Edgar* (1889). Bearers: Fidelia Bridges (c. 1834-1923), a painter from Salem, Massachusetts.

Fidelity y Latin: fidelitas "faithfulness" < fido "to trust" and "to believe." 17th C.

Fidius cc Epithet of Jupiter. Latin: fides "faith," "trust," "confidence," and "belief." Dius Fidius was a semi-separate entity identified with the Sabine God Sancus.

Fierabras c? The name of a "Saracen knight," who features in more than one medieval *Chansons de Geste*. Fr: fier a bras "brave arm." Var: Ferumbras, Fierrabras-this features as the name of an 1823 opera by Schubert based on the Fierabras legends. Ferumbras appears in the genealogy of the hobbit House of Took in the appendices of Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.

Fierce c~ Y Latin:ferus "wild" and "untamed." Usually an adjective, "fierce" was used in heraldry in the seventeenth century to mean some sort of heraldic animal-"a fierce." 20th C.

Fiery a' Y English: fiery "of fire" or "fire-like." 19th C.

Fiesta Y Spanish: fiesta "festival," "holiday," or "party" < L: festus "festive," "festal," and both "solemn" and "joyful"-used of days on which festivals to Gods and Goddesses were held. 20th C.

Fifaltra Y Old High German: ffaltra "butterfly."

Fifi 2 French pet-form of JOSEPHINE, used from the early twentieth century as an independent name in the ESW-mostly Britain. Bearers: Fifi Trixie Belle Geldof (b. 1983), the oldest daughter of Irish singer-songwriter Bob Geldof

Fikri e Arabic name-fikri "intellectual."

Fila 2 Persian name. Gr: philos "loved" and "dear."

Filia Y Latin: filia "daughter." Its history and usage pretty much mirrors that of its male equivalent FILIUS, except it appears even more frequently in the old registers than filius in place of the child's actual name.

Filius c~ Latin: Filius "son." Unfortunately, given the tendency for records prior to the eighteenth century to be in Latin, it is difficult sometimes to tell whether Filius is being used as a name, or is simply intended to mean, "the son of such-and-such." Where a name is given, the latter can be assumed, but sloppy vicars sometimes recorded babies as "so-and-so's son or daughter" because they were writing up the register in retrospect and had forgotten what the child had been called. Verifiable examples of it truly in use as a given name date only to the nineteenth century. One such example is recorded in the English 1840 births' index as Primus Filius (i.e. "first son") Weekes. Primus Filius Weekes was living in Iowa by 1856, and died there in 1909. Filius philosophorum "son of the philosophers" is an alchemic symbol, sometimes considered to be the legendary philosopher's stone. Bearers: Filius Flitwick, a wizard and teacher in the Harry Potter series.

Filiz y Turkish name-filiz "young shoot," "sprout," "bud," and "tendrill." It can also mean "ore."

Finbar e Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic Fionnbharr- fionn + barr "summit" and "top," thus "head." St. Finbarr, of alleged fifth-/sixth-century date, is the patron saint of Cork. Its Brythonic equivalent Vendubarus is found on a Roman era gravestone found at Llandawke in Wales in the nineteenth century. Finbar has been in use again since the nineteenth century, especially in Cork. Var: Finbarr, Finbarre, Finnbar, Finnbarr.

Finch e Y English surname. OE:finc "a finch," originating as a nickname.'The finch family contains numerous small and often quite colorful songbirds, such as the chaffinch, goldfinch, greenfinch, and rosefinch.'The surname is borne by the English Earls of Winchilsea and Nottingham, and its first use as a given name was early, dating to the sixteenth century. From the nineteenth century, it is found as a girl's name also, possibly an adoption of the name of the bird. Var: Finche, Fynche.

Finegas c~ Also known as Finnegas, Finneagas, Finneces, Findeces, Finneigeas, and Finn Eces, Finegas is the name of the elderly Druid to whom Finn McCool was sent to be taught. For many years he had been trying to catch the Salmon of Knowledge, and with Finn's help, he finally succeeded. Unfortunately, as they cooked the salmon, three drops of juice spat out from the fish and landed on Finn's thumb; without thinking, he put his thumb in his mouth thereby gaining the fish's knowledge. Jr Ga:fionn + eices "scholar," "sage," "seer," and "poet," but his name is often translated as "Finn the Seer," implying that his proper name is simply Finn and the eices bit simply an epithet.'This has led some to suggest that Finn McCool and Finegas are actually one and the same. Another intriguing possibility lies in the fact that Finn Eces is an epithet of the God Nuadu. Finegas is often described as being a wizened old leprechaun-itself rather suggestive of otherworldliness.

Fingal cc The name in Irish myth of the Scottish giant who built the Giant's Causeway so he could fight Finn McCool, and-after being tricked by Finn's wife Una-hotfooted it back to Scotland, ripping up the Causeway behind him as he went. He gave his name to Fingal's Cave, immortalized in Felix Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture (1830)commonly known just as Fingal's Cave. In Gaelic, Fingal's name is Fionnghall-fionn + gall "stranger." Var: Fionnghal, Fionnaghal (Ir Ga); Fingall.

Fingar c~ A fifth-century Cornish saint, said to have been Irish by birth. If the name is Irish, it is probably a combination of fionn + cara "friend," though the name can equally be explained with Cornish: fin "delicate" or "refined" + kara "love." He is associated with St. Ia.

Fingon c~ The name of the ancestor of Clan MacKinnon (also called Clan Fingon), Fingon was a ninth-century prince slain in battle. Probably CC:

*windo- "white" or *weniyf "family" and "kindred" + *geno- "born" or *gwan-o- "strike" and "kill".

Finley g Y Anglicized form of the Gaelic Fionnlagh- fionn + laoch "hero" or "champion," which gave rise to the widespread surname. Most use outside Scotland dates from the twentieth century. Var: Finlay, Findlay.

Finn G~ In the British Isles, Finn is mostly regarded as the Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic name Fionn. The Irish Fionn "white" derives ultimately from CC: *windo- "white" and is cognate with W: gwyn. The "other" Finn- responsible for the English surnames Finn, Fynn, and Phinn- is Old Norse Finnir "a Finn." The etymology of this is very uncertain. It may be Germanic < Old High German finthan "to find" or "to notice" or fende "wanderer." Bearers: Finn McCool- Fionn Mac Cumhaill- warrior and leader of the Fianna of Tara, who features prominently in Irish myth; Finn, a wizard in Mikhail Glinka's opera Ruslan and Lyudmila (1842).

Finnegan c' Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic surname O Finnagain "descendant of Finnagan." It has come into use as a given name in recent years, probably inspired by the mid-nineteenth-century ballad "Finnegan's Wake" and James Joyce's 1939 novel of the same name. Finnagan itself is a diminutive form of FINN. It also occurs as Fingin and Fingen, in which forms it was still in use in the seventeenth century. They were rendered in English by Florence.

Finnian c~ Anglicized form of Fionnan-OI: fionn + dim. suffix -an. It was the name of more than one Irish saint. Var: Finnan, Finin, Fionain (Ir Ga); Finian, Finan. W: Ffinian.

Fintan e Usually considered to have evolved from an earlier Fionntan, an Irish Gaelic form Fintan also exists, suggesting that Fintan may derive from fine "race" and "clan" rather than fionn. The second element is probably O1: tene "fire," although there is a possibility that it is connected to tain "cattle"-as found in the famous Tdin Bo Caaiinge (The Cattle Raid of Cooley). It could also have arisen as a diminutive of fianta "wild" or "fierce." Bearers: Fintan mac Bochra is a figure from Irish mythology, considered-along with a magical hawk born at the same time as him-to be the repository of all human knowledge. He was said to have survived the

biblical flood by turning into a salmon. Later he became an eagle and then a hawk and then returned to human form, living right up to the time of Finn McCool. After Ireland converted to Christianity, he and his magical hawk decided they'd had enough. There are also a couple of Irish saints of the name.

Fiona Y Fiona first appears in James Macpherson's Ossianic Poems. However, it is not the name of a person, but Macpherson's version of Fianna. 'Tis is the plural of fian- the name given to the small bands of warrior-poets of preChristian Ireland made famous through the Fenian Cycle, the medieval stories concerning Finn McCool and the Fianna he led. In 1893, the Scottish writer-and member of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn-William Sharp (1855-1905) began to publish work under the pseudonym Fiona MacLeod. Whether he took Fiona from the pages of Macpherson, or coined it himself straight from the Gaelic fionn isn't clear, but it was probably the latter. After that, it was taken up as a genuine given name, becoming particularly widespread in Scotland. Dim: Fe, Fee. Bearers: Fiona Horne (b. 1966), an Australian Wiccan author, actress, and singer. Fiona Maclaren, a character in the musical Brigadoon (1947); Princess Fiona of Far Far Away, the princess-cumbig-green-ogre of the Shrek films (2001-10). Another Princess Fiona-who also happens to be a sorceress-features in Roger Zelazny's Chronicles of Amber series (1970-91).

Fionnabhair Y The daughter of Queen Medb of Connacht and Ailill. She had a tragic life. During the Cattle Raid of Cooley, the man she loved was killed by Cu Chulainn. Her mother then used her to bribe the support of Rochad mac Fathemain against Cu Chulainn; but after spending the night with him, he found out that Medb had tried to bribe several over Munster kings with her before him-so he joined the forces of Ulster against Connacht. Fionnabhair died of shame.'The meaning of her name is not entirely clear.'The first element is fionn; the second may be braoi "eyebrow," but another strong contender is 01: siabar "demon" and "specter." Its Middle Welsh cognate hwyfar is found only in one context-the name Gwenhwyfar-better known in English as GUINEVERE. Var: Finnabair, Findabair, Findabhair, Finnabher, FIONNUIR.

Fionnait Y Although most people now treat FIONA as the feminine of FINN, Fionnait is the traditional and more accurate feminine form. OI: fionn + fem. dim. suffix -nait.

Fionnuala y Old Irish:fionn + guala "shoulder." Fionnuala just about managed to survive-mostly in Scotland-until its revival in more recent times. In Ireland it was often rendered in English as Penelope, while in Scotland, Flora served the same purpose. In mythology, the name was borne by one of the children of Lit, who were turned into swans through the machinations of their wicked stepmother. Anglicized as FENELLA. Var: Fionnghuala, Finnguala Jr Ga); Fionnghal, Finuall (Sc Ga). Dim: NUALA Jr Ga). Bearers: Fionnghuala MacDonald (c. 1550-aft.1608)-better known as Ineen Dubh (Ir Ga: Inion Dubh-"dark daughter")-is famous for ruling Tir Chonaill (essentially the modern Counties Donegal and Fermanagh) after her husband Hugh O'Donnell grew senile.

Fionnuir 2 Fionnuir-Anglicized as Fenora and Fennore-is the name of a saint about whom nothing is known except she gave her name to the village of Kilfenora in County Clare. Indeed, efforts have been made in recent times to argue that Fionnuir didn't originate as a personal name at all, rather than accept the fact that it might represent the name of a Pagan Goddess or genius loci who slipped through the net. Usually, it is considered a variant of FIONNABHAIR (which is pronounced the same), but it is possible it arose independently from OI: fionn + iriu "earth" (fir in Modern Irish)-linking her to ERIU.

Fiorella Y Italian diminutive of fiore "flower." Early 20th C. Bearers: Fiorella Terenzi (b. 1954), the Italian astrophysicist, musician, and author, known for turning recordings made of radio waves from galaxies into music. Fiorella (1936) is an opera by Italo Brancucci.

Fios c~ In Irish mythology, Fios is the name of one of a trio of Druid brothers-the other two being Eolas "knowledge" and Fochmarc "enquiring." OI: fios "intelligence."

Fir (~ 2 Fir derives through the Old English and Old Norse from the Old Teutonic: *furhjon. Only in the last couple of hundred years has any formal differentiation been made between the fir and the pine, and even now there

are firs which are classified as *Pinus* rather than *Abies*-such as the Scotch fir *Pinus sylvestris*. It shares more or less the same symbolism and usages as pine.

Fire c~ Y Fire's immense importance to humankind is attested by the myriad of mythological stories which surround it, especially about how humankind first acquired it from the tale of Prometheus in the Greek tradition, to the Choctaw story of Grandmother Spider stealing fire. Gods and Goddesses of fire play a significant role in most mythologies. Understandably, fire is associated with the Sun, and-in all Northern Latitude countries-with the South, with summer, and with the color red. It is representative of energy and passion, and the "spark" of life that animates and burns within us all. We use expressions in everyday English such as "hot" or "fiery" tempered without thinking, so common and embedded is the notion that anger or passion and fire are one. The word "fire" derives from OE: *fyr* < Old Teutonic: **fair-* "fire," cognate with Gr: *pur* and San: *pzi*. Its use as a given name arose in the twentieth century, though mostly in the last thirty years or so and largely as a middle name, often in combinations such as Crystal Fire, Dawn Fire, and Star Fire, etc.

Firefly c~ 2 The name of a type of winged beetle, also called a glow worm and lightning bug. They are famous for the fact they glow brightly at night, like little stars. Understandably, they have always been considered magical and otherworldly. Long associated with fairies, fireflies are like little droplets of magic which have sneaked through from the Otherworld to cast their spell on all who spy them in dark summer woods and glades, reinvigorating a sense of wonder in the natural magic of Nature. Late 20th C.

Firestone c~ Usually written "fire-stone" in Modern English, the word dates to Anglo-Saxon times when it appeared as *fyrstan*-a combination of "fire" and "stone." It is used of any stone capable of producing a spark to start a fire, such as a flint, as well as of iron pyrites. The word is also used of those stones capable of resisting fire, which historically were used for lining ovens or furnaces, and for hearths. A character called Firestone-son of a Witch called Hecate-appears in Thomas Middleton's play *The Witch* (1616).

Firmin English form of the Latin Firminus "belonging to Firmus." Firmus was a common Roman cognomen an adoption of the adjective firmus "strong," "steadfast," and "enduring." The fifth-century St. Firmin is largely responsible for its use. 12th C. Var: Fermin, Firman, Firmyn, Firmian (hist). Sp: Fermin, Fr: Firmin.

Firth c~ English surname. OE: firhje "woodland." In Scotland, firth is cognate with the Scandinavian fiord and has more or less the same meaning. 18th C-particularly in Yorkshire, England.

Fisher c' English surname. OE: fiscere "fisherman." It is possible that in the minds of some bestowers-in the past and perhaps even more so today-is the rather chilling Christian notion of "fishers of men," which is what Jesus is believed to have said to those fishermen he recruited in order to entice them into following him. However, Fisher does also have some excellent Pagan credentials; there are a number of Gods who preside over fishermen, such as the Aztec Animitl; Ahti, the Finnish God of fish; Glaucus, the Greek God of fishermen; and the Haitian Agwe, who rules the sea and is the patron loa of fishermen and sailors. Moreover, the Fisher King features prominently in the Grail Cycles, first appearing in the twelfth century in Chretien de Troyes's Perceval. The keeper of the Grail, it is believed the Fisher King derives from the Celtic myths surrounding Bran the Blessed, the God linked with a magic cauldron featuring in a number of tales-and considered by many to be the real Grail. 16th C.

Fisk c~ Also spelled Fiske, Fisk is a variant of the English surname Fish. Fish have been an important source of food since prehistoric times and feature abundantly in the world's mythology. As Pisces, two fish feature in one of the twelve signs of the zodiac, and in Celtic mythology, the Salmon of Wisdom represents the ultimate source of all sagacity and knowledge. 18th C.

Fitz cc' Generally used as a short form of surnames beginning with Fitz-such as FITZGERALD, Fitz has also been used as an independent name since the nineteenth century, sometimes, particularly in Britain, demonstrating a conscious awareness of its meaning "son" by following it with the father's name. Contrary to popular belief, although its use in surnames is often associated with illegitimacy (FITZROY being a good

example), the word itself is entirely neutral. OF: fiz "son" < filz < L: FILIUS.

Fitzgerald cc Irish surname-"son of GERALD." The FitzGeralds of Kildare were Earls of Kildare from 1316 and Dukes of Leinster from 1766. Lord Edward Fitzgerald (1763-98), one of the younger sons of the first duke (as well as a great-great grandson of King Charles II), was a famous revolutionary. He died in prison of wounds he received resisting arrest. Late 17th C. Bearers: John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-63), the American President.

Fitzroy c~ English surname-"son of the king." It has been most famously borne by the illegitimate offspring of monarchs, such as Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond and Somerset (1519-36), the son of King Henry VIII, and Charles Fitzroy, Duke of Cleveland (1662-1730), son of King Charles II. Much rarer, but related, is Fitzclarence, which was bestowed as a surname upon the illegitimate children of King William IV, formerly Duke of Clarence. Late 17th C.

Fitzwilliam c' English surname-"son of WILLIAM." The Fitzwilliams were an influential Anglo-Irish aristocratic family. 17th C. Bearers: Fitzwilliam Darcy, hero of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813).

Fjorgyn Y Another name for Erda, Fjorgyn was often used to mean "Mother Earth" in Old Norse texts. ON: for "life" + gefa "to give" (probably). Fjorgynn is her male counterpart, said to be the father of Frigg.

Flair y cc Old French: flair "to smell" < L: fragro "to smell" i.e. "to emit a smell"-both good and bad. In the Middle Ages, the word saw a little use in English with the meaning "smell," but then died out. It was reintroduced in the late nineteenth century from French. Over time its meaning had changed to mean "sense of smell" and thus "perceptiveness," most especially "instinctive discernment" or "special aptitude." It is found as a name in Quebec in the nineteenth century, and in the ESW from the twentieth.

Flaitheas Y Meaning "sovereignty" in Irish Gaelic, Flaitheas Eireann "the Sovereignty of Ireland" is the divine personification of Ireland. In the

legend of Niall of the Nine Hostages, this is the name the old hag at the well gives to Niall after he has kissed her and she has transformed into a fair maiden. She then bestows kingship upon Niall and his line for twenty-six generations. In Scots Gaelic, flaitheas means "heaven" and "paradise."

Flaithri a' Irish Gaelic name flaith "prince" + rf "king." In the past it was rendered in English by Florence. It was borne by more than one figure of early Irish myth and history.

Flame Y a' English: "flame" < L: flamma "blazing fire" and "flame."
Flames have long been used to symbolize zeal, passion, rebirth, purification, and spiritual energy. Late 20th C.

Flanders c' English surname deriving from Flandersnow a region straddling Belgium, France, and Holland.'The name almost certainly derives from OG: flauma "flooded area." 18th C.

Flann cc Irish Gaelic name flann "blood red." It was borne by a number of figures in Irish legend and history, such as Flann Sinna (d. 916), a High King of Ireland.

Flannery Gc y English form of the Irish Gaelic surname O Flannarbha "descendant of Flannabrha." Flannabhra means "the (one with the) red eyebrow," from fiann "blood red" + fabhra "eyelash." 19th C. Bearers: (Mary) Flannery O'Connor (1925-64), the American novelist.

Flare c~ Y The English word "flare" meaning "sudden burst of light" comes from the verb "to flare," meaning "to spread out." 'The ultimate origin is unknown; the verb first appeared in the sixteenth century, and the noun three centuries later. 20th C.

Flavia Y Feminine form of FLAVIUS. There are two saints of the name. Flavia Domitilla was the name of three members of the Flavian Imperial dynasty, the wife, daughter and granddaughter of the Emperor Vespasian. 'The granddaughter converted to Judaism, but Christians like to think it was Christianity-even though there is no evidence for it-and she is revered as a saint.'There is another St. Flavia of unknown date, who was allegedly martyred at the hands of pirates. Flavia has long been used as a name in

Italy and Spain, but its use in the ESW dates only from the eighteenth century. Fr: Flavie. Bearers: Princess Flavia, a principal character in Antony Hope's novel *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1894).

Flavian English form of Flavianus "belonging to FLAVIUS." 19th C. Fem: Flaviana.

Flavius c' Roman gens. L: flavus "golden yellow," "flaxencolored"-and thus "blonde." In 67 CE, Titus Flavius Vespasianus-better known as Vespasian-became Emperor of Rome, founding the Flavian dynasty, which lasted until the death of his younger son Domitian in 96 CE. In the later Empire, Flavius joined the ranks of the small number of Roman first names, largely because of the popularity of Vespasian and his older son, Titus. 18th C.

Flax c" Y Flax is the old name for linseed, and has been in use since Anglo-Saxon times. OE: fleax. Its roots are cognate with L: plecto and Gr: pleko both meaning "to plait" or "to interweave," hinting at just how long flax has been used to make linen-the plant's principal use even today. Flax seeds and linen have even been found in Egyptian tombs. In Norse mythology, flax is sacred to Hulda, who was said to have first taught mortals the art of turning flax into linen. Ruled by Mercury and Fire, flax flowers were used as protection against sorcery in the Middle Ages, and the plant is still valued for its protective qualities by Witches today. It was an old custom in Bohemia for seven-year-olds to dance amongst growing flax to make them beautiful. Medicinally, the seeds are rich in Omega-3, and it is believed that they can not only help lower cholesterol but that they also possess anti-cancer properties. Var: Flaxen-the adjective derived from it, often used of fair hair. 19th C.

Fletcher a English surname. OF: flechier "arrow-maker." 17th C. Bearers: Fletcher Christian (1764-98), the Bounty mutineer, who was named after his maternal grandmother, Mary Fletcher.

Fleury French: fleur "flower." 19th C. Bearers: Fleur Forsyte, a character in John Galsworthy's *Forsyte Saga* (1906-21); Fleur Delacoeur, a French Witch in the *Harry Potter* series.

Fleur-de-lys Y Fleur-de-lys was a French Medieval name for the Iris, but is now most familiar as the stylized heraldic lily which symbolized the French monarchy. Fr: FLEUR + de "of" + lys-a medieval French variant of lis < lils "lily" < L: lilium. 20th C. Var: Fleurdelys. Bearers: Fleur-de-lys de Gondelaurier, a character in Victor Hugo's Notre Dame de Paris (1831).

Flidhais y An Irish Goddess of the woods, mistress of wild animals, and especially associated with stags and deer-by which her chariot is said to be drawn. She bears the epithet *foltchaoin*, meaning "beautiful-haired." The Tdin Bo Flidais makes her the wife of Ailill Finn and lover-later wife-of Fergus mac Roich. Var: Fliodhais, Flidais, and Flidas.

Flinders cc English surname-a variant of FLANDERS. 19th C. Bearers: Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie (1853-1942), invariably known as Flinders Petrie, the British archaeologist.

Flint c' Flint's use as a given name is mostly down to the surname, which originated in part from the town of Flint in North Wales, and in part as a nickname for someone as hard as flint-both from OE:flint-ultimately cognate with Gr: *plinthos* "tile." Flint is found in nodules, and is noted for being extremely hard and brittle; it was these qualities which led to it being used in the Stone Age for an array of tools, with arrowheads and hand-axes being the best known. Flint has an association with fire not just because it was the "metal" of the Stone Age but because it is used to start fires, and was thus believed to contain fire. Late 17th C.

Floella 2 Combination of Flo-a short form of FLORENCE-and ELLA. Late 19th C. Bearers: Floella Benjamin (b. 1949), a British actress.

Flora Y Roman fertility Goddess of flowers and the spring, Flora-L: *flos* "flower"-is the consort of Favonius. She has always been a favorite subject in art, from the famous wallpainting found at Pompeii and now preserved in Naples National Archaeological Museum to works by Titian, Rembrandt, Laurence Alma-Tadema, and Waterhouse, and is most famously depicted in Botticelli's *Primavera* (1492).The name came into use in the sixteenth century, becoming most established in Scotland, where it was used to render Fionnuala. Bearers: Flora Macdonald (1722-90), the Jacobite who

aided Bonnie Prince Charlie; Flora McLachlan is a Witch and nanny in Debi Gliori's *Strega Borgia Chronicles* (2001-6).

Florence **2 d** Originally, Florence was both a boy's and a girl's name, being the English form of both Florentius and Florentia. These both meant "belonging to Florens." **L:** Florens "blossoming" < floreo "to blossom," "to flower," and "to flourish" was a common Roman cognomen, and there are more than ten saints called Florentius. It fell out of use in England as a male name after the fifteenth century, but survived in Ireland, where it was used to render Fingin (see Finnegan) and Flaithri. The girl's name fared better, and although it had become unusual by the early nineteenth century, it was already growing in popularity again when it received a significant boost from the celebrity of the British nurse Florence Nightingale (1820-1910). Dubbed "the Lady with the Lamp," her work to improve medical care for soldiers during the Crimean War made her a national hero. She was famously named after the Italian city of her birth as was Sir Percy Florence Shelley, 3rd Baronet (1819-89), the son of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary Shelley. **Dim:** Flory, Flurry **c** ; Flo, Florrie, Flory, Flossie, Floy **Y.** **Ger:** Florenz **cc.** Bearers: Florence Newton (fl. 1661), an Irish woman accused of Witchcraft and dubbed the "Witch of Youghal." Her fate is unknown-the court records are missing; Florence Zimmerman is a fictional Witch in a number of children's Gothic horror novels by John Bellairs and Brad Strickland, such as *The House with a Clock in Its Walls* (1973); Florence was a principal character in the British version of the children's television series *The Magic Roundabout* (1965-77).

Florentina **Y** The feminine form of Latin Florentinus "belonging to Florens" (see Florence). There was a seventh-century Spanish saint of the name, and Florentina still sees most use there. 16th C.

Floretta **Y** Diminutive form of FLORA. Floretta appears in Emil von Reznicek's 1894 comic opera *Donna Diana*, which was popular in its day. It also features as the name of an old Gypsy in Victor Herbert's operetta *Babes in Toy Land* (1903). 18th C. **Fr:** Florette.

Florian **' Y** English form of Florianus "belonging to FLORA." It was used as a cognomen in Roman times, most notably by Marcus Annianus Florianus, who was briefly Roman Emperor in 276 CE. He is often called simply

Florian, as is the fourth-century saint, the patron saint of Poland. 17th C. Since the nineteenth century, it has also been used for girls. Fem: Floriana.

Florida Y Florida is all-but synonymous with the American state which received its name in 1513 from a Spanish conquistador; it is said to be the oldest surviving European place name in America. The conquistador named it Florida because he landed there during the Spanish festival of Pascua Florida-"Flowery Easter" < Sp: florido "flowery" < L: floridus "flowery," "made of flowers," and "blooming." Florida appears as a character in Thomas Middleton's play *The Witch* (1616). 17th C.

Florinda Y A literary coinage of the seventeenth century, combining FLORA with the then fashionable ending -inda. It featured in Aphra Behn's play *The Rover* (1677), Handel's opera *Rodrigo* (1707), and Robert Southey's epic poem *Roderick, the Last of the Goths* (1814). 17th C.

Florisdelfa Y The name of an enchantress said to have studied under Merlin. She appears in the Italian version of the story of Tristan and Iseult-I Due Tristani (1555). Its origins are unknown, but it is presumably a coinage from the L: flos "flower" + Gr: adelphe "sister."

Florizel a In Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*, Florizel is Duke of Bohemia and the romantic lead. It also features in Henry Beston's *The Firelight Fairy Book* (1919) as the name of a fairy prince. 19th C. Bearers: Sir Florizel Glasspole (1909-2000), the third Governor General of Jamaica.

Floure y Romani name floure "flowery."

Flower Y English "flower." Used as a girl's name in the Middle Ages, which is in part responsible for the surname Flower. This also derives from "flower" used as a nickname and the ME: flcer "arrow-maker." Joan Flower and her daughters Margaret and Philippa were the Witches of Belvoir-tried in 1619 for causing the death of Lord de Ros, the oldest son of the Earl and Countess of Rutland using Joan's familiar, a cat called Rutterkin. Joan died in prison; Margaret and Philippa were hanged at Lincoln. Flower returned as a given name in the seventeenth century. Var: Flowery (19th Q. Bearers: Flower, the skunk in *Bambi* (1942).

Floyd cc British surname, derived from LLOYD. 18th C.

Fluellen e Y Anglicized form of LLYWELYN, used by Shakespeare for a Welsh captain in Henry V. Fluellen is also a common name for speedwell, which evolved from the Welsh llysiau Llywelyn, meaning "Llywelyn's herbs." Var: Fluellin, Fluellyn.

Fly ' Y The word "fly" has two very distinct, but related meanings; the verb "to fly"-which is much associated with Witches and broomsticks, as well as that innate desire within most to soar unfettered in the clouds, with cares and burdens left behind-and the insect.'The latter is generally regarded quite unfavorably, often considered an annoyance at best and a harbinger of nasty diseases at worst. Not all flies are bad, however; butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and fireflies are all valued for their beauty, while the artificial flies made by fishermen are often lovely miniature works of art. Late 19th C.

Flynn c~ English form of the Irish Gaelic surname O Floinn "descendant of FLANN." 19th C.

Folia 2 The name of a Witch, said by the Roman poet Horace to be able to draw down the moon and stars. She features in a poem in which he describes the Witch Canidia about to sacrifice a young boy. L: folium "a leaf."

Folly Y c~ Folly is, quite literally, a folly of a name, but rather likeable all the same.'The English "folly" derives from OF: folie "foolish" and "mad." In its early use (from the thirteenth century), it referred to the state of being foolish or lacking understanding. Over time it has accrued a number of other meanings-some, like "wickedness" and "lewdness" are now obsolete. In the fourteenth century, it acquired the sense of "a ridiculous thing" or "an absurdity. "'It is why it was applied from the seventeenth century to the fanciful structures erected on the estates of the wealthy-from Gothic ruins to classical temples.'The surname-which appears to derive from the same source-is probably responsible for much of its use since the nineteenth century.

Fomalhaut c~ The traditional name of Alpha Piscis Austrini, one of the brightest stars of the night sky. Ar: fum al-hawt "mouth of the whale." One of the four Persian "royal stars," it rules over the Winter Solstice and is considered the Watcher of the North. It is sometimes called the Lonely Star of Autumn, being the only first magnitude star in the fall sky.

Fon 2 `Thai name fon "rain."

Fonia ? Latinized form of a Gaelic name-possibly FIONNUALA or FIONNAIT-Fonia was the name of the twelfth-century wife of Reginald (Ranald), King of the Isles, the ancestor of Clan Donald. Revived 20th C.

Ford c~ English surname, a simple adoption of "ford" < Teutonic: *fer "to go." 16th C. Bearers: Ford Prefect, one of the principal characters in Douglas Adams's Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series (1979-92). He is an alien who chose the human name "Ford Prefect" because he saw it everywhere, and thought it would be inconspicuousnot realizing it was the name of a car. Var: Forde, Fforde, Fforde, Forth.

Forest e Y Much of Forest's use as a given name is simply as a variant of FORREST. However, in recent years, the English word "forest" has been in the minds of some of its users, with all its associations with wilderness, wild animals, and the natural world in general. The woods and forests are the homes of tree-nymphs, satyrs, Artemis, Pan, Silvanus, Cernunnos, and Herne, among so many others. 18th C.

Forgetmenot 2 Forgetmenot is the name of the delicate little plant with tiny blue flowers.'The name is a direct translation of its Old French name-ne m'oublize mye. In the fifteenth century, it was believed that it possessed the virtue that those who wore it would never be forgotten by those that loved them. Unsurprisingly, it symbolizes "forget me not"along with true love. Late 19th C. Var: Forget-me-not.

Forrest c English surname. OF: forest "outside wood," i.e. "unfenced wood"-as opposed to a fenced park-from L: foris "out of doors." 17th C. Forrest Gump (1986) is a novel by Winston Groom, which was turned into a film in 1994 of the same name. Var: Deforrest, Deforest.

Forrester cc English surname. OF: forestier "forester"-a term for someone in charge of a forest.18th C. Var: Forster.

Forsyth c~ Scottish surname, from the old Gaelic name Fearsithe-fer "man" + sith "peace." Late 18th C.

Forsythia Y The name of the shrub with bright yellow flowers, Forsythia is increasingly as much a symbol of the early spring as the traditional yellow daffodil. In the language of flowers, it signifies "anticipation." It derives from FORSYTH, having been named after the Scottish botanist William Forsyth (1737-1804) in 1805.20th C.

Fortinbras c~ The name of two minor characters in Shakespeare's Hamlet. The name is modeled on FIERABRAS, with the first element changed to the French fort giving it the meaning "strong-armed." Fortinbras is also used by Tolkien in Lord of the Rings in the genealogy of the hobbit House of Took.

Fortitude c~ ? One of the Puritan "virtue" names adopted in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Along with Prudence, Justice, and Temperance, it is regarded as a cardinal virtue by Catholics. L: fortitudo "courage" and "strength."

Fortuna 2 Latin: fortuna "fortune," "fate," "chance," and "luck." Fortuna was personified as a Goddess by the Romans, and presides over both good and bad luck. The Romans linked her to both Isis and the God Bonus Eventus-"good occurrence." 16th C. Var: Fortune.

Fortunata Y The feminine form of FORTUNATUS. It occurs in Petronius's first-century CE novel The Satyricon and there is a very minor fourth-century saint of the name. 16th C.

Fortunatus c Latin: fortunatus "prosperous," "lucky," and "fortunate." Fortunatus was used as a cognomen by the Romans, and there are a number of saints of the name. Fortunatus was a popular German "chap-book" (the early modern equivalent of a trashy paperback), first published in 1509, which chronicled the adventures of a young lad of the name. It was retold in numerous versions and languages over the ensuing centuries, eventually

surfacing as Fortunatus and his purse in Andrew Lang's Grey Fairy Book (1900).

Foster c~ English surname. In some cases, it may be from the ME: foster "foster-parent" or "nurse"; in others, it is probably a variant of FORRESTER. A third source is OF: forse ter "shearer," and lastly, it sometimes occurs as a variant of the surname Fewster from OF: fustier "saddle-tree maker." 17th C.

Fox e Fox's use as a given name actually dates back to the seventeenth century-an adoption of the surname, which arose as a nickname for someone who was fox-like. The fox has long had the reputation for being wily and intelligent. It is also very much a symbol of the wild and untamed, wherever they have made their home-be it a lonely forest in the back-of-beyond or an inner-city.'The ancient Britons admired the fox and used the Brythonic word for fox *loverno- in personal names; Lovernianus, Lovernisca, and Lovernius are all attested in Roman Britain. Bearers: Fox Conner (1874- 1951), the American major-general popularly known as "the man who made Eisenhower"; Fox Mulder, the hero of the American television series The X Files (1993-2002).

Foxglove ? e A wildflower rich in folklore. Its elegant spikes of purple bells are found in woods and hedgerows in midsummer and positively ooze magic.'The spots inside the flowers are said to be the marks left from the touch of elves' fingers, and the famous "flying ointment" of the Witches is believed to have contained foxglove. Seemingly a simple combination of "fox" + "glove," the name is actually a corruption of folk's glove, a reference to the Fair Folk-i.e. the fairies. Folk-etymology states that it acquired the name foxglove because the fairies give the blooms to foxes to soften their footfall when hunting. It has many other similarly evocative names such as Witch's gloves, Witch's thimbles, fairy fingers, fairy's gloves, Virgin's gloves, and gloves of Our Lady, testifying rather clearly to the fact this plant may well once have been sacred to a Goddess. A plant of Venus and Water, it is used magically in protective spells. Well known for its toxicity-even touching it without protection can give rashes and headaches-its powerful cardiac glycoside digitoxin is used in the treatment of heart failure (it is essential to use this under the direction of a medical

professional only; even in small amounts, foxgloves can kill). In the language of flowers, so popular in Victorian times, the foxglove stood for "insincerity"-perhaps because of its strong association with the Fay, well known for their capriciousness. 20th C.

Foy c2 Y English surname. OF:foi "faith." 17th C.

Foyle a Y The name of an Irish river-in Irish Gaelic An Feabhal, said to mean "estuary of the lip." In legend, the river was named after one Feabhal, son of Lodan of the Tuatha De Danann. Foyle is also an English and a Welsh surname. The English derives from OF: fouille "excavation"-used of someone who dwelt by a dug pit; the Welsh is from W: moel "bald." 19th C.

France 2 e In France, the name France has been used for girls since the nineteenth century, being particularly popular just after the end of both the First and Second World Wars; the combination Marie-France was especially so at the end of the latter. In Slovenia, France (pronounced "FRANTS-a") is a boy's name-a short form of Franciscus (see Francis). Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century.

Francelina y Elaborate feminine form of FRANCIS, used in the anonymous sixteenth-century Spanish romance Primaleon (1512), translated into English by Anthony Munday at the end of that century. Late 16th C.

Frances Y The feminine form of FRANCIS. In use since the late fifteenth century, although until the seventeenth century there was no distinction in the spelling; boys and girls alike were called Francis. In the sixteenth century, it was popular with the aristocracy; an early bearer was Lady Frances Brandon (1517-59), grand-daughter of King Henry VII and niece of Henry VIII. Dim: FANNY; Fran, Francie, Frankie, Frannie, Franny (mod). It: FRANCESCA, Port, Sp: Francisca, Pol: Franciszka, Fr: Frangoise, Cz: Frantiska, Ger: Franziska.

Francesca Y The Italian feminine of FRANCIS, used in Italy since the thirteenth century. It was also used as the Latin form of Frances in English records, though in most if not all cases a girl so named was actually simply a Frances. Dim: Fran, Francie, Frankie Frannie, Franny; Franca (It).

Bearers: Francesca Cunningham, the principal character in the film *The Seventh Veil* (1945)-since when the name has come into general use in the ESW; Francesca da Rimini (1255-85), who featured in Dante's *Divine Comedy* (1308-21).

Francine Y French variant of Frangoise, dating to at least the seventeenth century. It was borne by the daughter of the French philosopher Rene Descartes; she was born in 1635 and died of scarlet fever aged five in 1640. The name was popular in nineteenth-century fiction, appearing in Honore de Balzac's *Les Chouans* (1829) and Wilkie Collins's *I Say No* (1884), among others. As a result it came into use in the ESW in the nineteenth century.

Francis c' Y The English form of Latin Franciscus. It originally meant "a Frank" and later came to mean "Frenchman." OF: Franceis "Frenchman" was often found in the formative surname period-and this is the origin of most occurrences of the surname Francis and its variants. Its use as a given name is almost entirely down to the popularity of St. Francis of Assisi (1181/82-1226), whose birth name was Giovanni. Francesco-the Italian form of Franciscus-was a nickname bestowed upon him by his father. His mother was said to have been French and his father-a merchant-was away on business in France when he was born, so he took to calling him Francesco on his return. Canonized only two years after his death, Francis rapidly became a medieval favorite across Europe, and the name has been in use ever since. Dim: FRANK, FRANKIE, Franky. Hun: Ferenc, Feri (dim), W: FFRANSIS, Cat: Francesc, Slv: FRANCE, Port, Sp: Francisco, Pol: Franciszek, Fr: Francois, Dut, Fin: Frans, Cz, Slk: Frantisek, Ger: Franz, Haw: Palani, Jr Ga: Proinsias. Bearers: two Holy Roman Emperors, two kings of France, and five Dukes of Modena; Sir Francis Drake (1540-96), the English seafarer and courtier; Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the English philosopher, scientist and statesman; Francis Stewart, 5th Earl of Bothwell (1562-1612), nicknamed "the Wizard Earl," who was accused of trying to kill King James VI by Witchcraft in 1591; Francis Barrett (fl. 1801), the British metaphysicist, philosopher, magician and author the magical textbook *The Magus* (1801); Francis James Child (1825-96), the American collector of English folk-ballads-now referred to as "Child

Ballads"; Francis Abernethy, one of the main characters in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (1992).

Frank c~ Franc and Franke occurred in the Middle Ages as the Anglo-Norman forms of Old German Franco "a Frank," and were partly behind the surnames Frank and Franks, etc. Another source of the surname is OF: franc "free"-i.e. not a serf. It derived from the name of the tribe-but NOT the other way around. The etymology of the ethnonym is almost certainly cognate with OE: franca "javelin." As early as the sixteenth century, Frank was being used as the short form of FRANCIS-this may have been in part because the adjective had by that period acquired its meanings of "sincere" and "forthright." Bearers: L. Frank Baum (1856-1919), the author of *The Wizard of Oz*; Frank Herbert (1920-86), the author of the *Dune* novels; Frank Churchill, a character in Jane Austen's *Emma* (1815); Frank Drebin, hero of the *Naked Gun* films (1988-94).

Frankie G~ Y Pet-form of FRANCIS, FRANCES and FRANCESCA. Var: Franky. It has been used as an independent name for boys since the late nineteenth century and for girls from the twentieth.

Frankincense Y d "Frankincense" is a medieval combination of "frank" (here seeming to mean "high quality") + INCENSE. Frankincense is an aromatic resin extracted principally from *Boswellia sacra* or *thurifera*-the frankincense tree. Its use for purification is ancient. Frankincense was found in the tomb of King Tut-and its use was old even then. It is famously one of the gifts of the fabled Tree Wise Men. Although now strongly associated with the Catholic Church, there was a time when the Church shunned it because of its association with Pagan temples; the Greek writer Herodotus recorded that the equivalent in weight of a thousand talents was burnt during the feast of Bel in Babylon alone. Charred frankincense was also one of the ingredients of kohl. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, Frankincense is still valued for its protective qualities, and is also used for consecration and exorcism. Its use in medicine is likewise ancient; Pliny the Elder records its use as an antidote to hemlock poisoning (not one to try at home). Avicenna, writing in the tenth century, recommended it for fevers, vomiting, dysentery, ulcers, and tumors-and its anticancer qualities are currently under exploration today.

Franklin cc Y English surname. ME: frankeleyn "a freeman" < OF: fraunclein. It was used of those who owned some land but were not of noble birth. 17th C. Benjamin Franklin (1706-90), the scientist, political theorist, diplomat, satirist, and author, is responsible for much of the name's use since the late eighteenth century. Var: Franklyn. Bearers: Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945), another American President.

Fraser a Scottish surname. It seems to have derived from a lost place in France. One form the name took in the past was Freseliere, and Clan Fraser has more than once in the past declared kinship with a French family called de la Frezeliere. Fraser's similarity to Fr:fraisier "strawberry plant" led to the plant being adopted as a heraldic symbol of the clan. 17th C. Var: Frasier, Frazer, Frazier. Sc Ga: Friseal. Bearers: Frasier Crane, central character of the American television sitcom Frasier (1993-2004) and formerly of Cheers (1982-93).

Frauke y German name. Ger: frau "woman." 19th C.

Fred c~ Y Mostly a short form of FREDERICK, but also ALFRED and WINIFRED, etc. Bearers: Fred Flintstone of the American television cartoon series The Flintstones (1960-66); Fred Weasley, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Freda Y Short form of WINIFRED. Frida and Frieda are treated as variants, but originated in Germany and Scandinavia as short forms of names containing frithu "peace" cognate with the Old Norse Fria. Erzulie Freda is an important loa (divinity) of Haitian Voodoo; her name probably derives from one of the West African languages. 19th C. Bearers: Frieda, Lady Harris (1877-1962), a British writer, artist, and Thelemite-a close friend of Aleister Crowley, she painted his 'I Ching' Tarot.

Freddie c~ y Principally a pet-form of FREDERICK, but also sometimes of ALFRED-and as a girl's name of WINIFRED. 19th C. Var: Freddy. Bearers: Freddie Mercury (1946-91), whose birth name was Farrokh Bulsara.

Fredegonde Y Anglicized form of French Fredegonde from Old German Fridegundis frithu "peace" + gundi "war." It was the name of the sixth-

century queen of Chilperic I, King of Soissons, who became queen after murdering his former wife Galswintha. Var: Fredegund, Fredegunda.

Frederica 2 Feminine form of FREDERICK. It was popular with the royal German houses in the eighteenth century, and spread from there to the ESW. Princess Frederica Charlotte of Prussia (1767-1820) became Duchess of York upon her marriage to Frederick, Duke of York, son of King George III in 1791, and Frederica of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (1778- 1841) married in 1815 King George's fourth son, Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, later King of Hanover. Var: Fredericka. Scand: Fredrika, Ger: Friederike; Fritz (dim). Frederica (1965) is a novel by Georgette Heyer.

Frederick c~ The English form of Old German Frithuric frithu "peace" + ricja. It was brought to England by the Normans, reinforcing the Old English cognate Freodhric. It lingered in use until Frederick, Prince of Wales (1707-51), came to England in 1728 on the accession of his father, King George II, leading to the name's revival. Dim: FRED, FREDDIE, Freddy. Var: Frederic Cz: Bedrich, It, Sp: Federico, Fr: Frederic, Port: Frederico, Dut: Frederik, Scand: Fredrik, Ger: Friedrich, Hun: Frigyes, Pol: Fryderyk, Haw: Peleke. Bearers: nine kings of Denmark, three Holy Roman Emperors, and four kings of Prussia; Frederick Hockley (1809-85), the Rosicrucian seer and member of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, who was a noted collector and translator of manuscripts on magic.

Freesia Y Named after the German physician Friedrich Freese in the mid-nineteenth century, Freesias are popular for their scent and flowers. The German surname Freese developed from Friese "a Frisian.." The name of this tribe may ultimately be related to the Old Frisian frisle "curly-haired." Late 19th C.

Freya 2 The usual English form of Norse Freyja, the Goddess of love, beauty, and fertility-though she is also associated with war and death. Her consort is Odr and she is known for her cloak of falcon feathers and chariot drawn by cats. There is some debate over the origin of her name, but it is probably the Scandinavian cognate of FRIGE. 19th C. Var: Freja, Freyia, Frea. Bearers: Freya Stark (1893-1993), the British traveler and writer, best known for *The Valleys of the Assassins* (1934); Freya Aswynn (b. 1949), the pen-name of the Dutch Wiccan writer, musician, and astrologer

Elizabeth Hooijschuur. Freya is also the name of a Druid in the British television drama Merlin (2008-). Freya of the Seven Isles (1912) was a novella by Joseph Conrad.

Freyde Y Yiddish name. Ger: Freude "delight" and "joy." Var: Frayde.

Freyr c? Norse God of fertility and the weather, the brother of Freya. As a baby he was given Alfheim-elfland-as his "tooth-gift" (this was a present given to a child on cutting its first tooth). OG: *frawjaz "lord." Var: Froj, Fro, Frey. Late 20th C.

Friday Y cc The Romans called Friday dies Veneris "Venus's day." "This became Friged&g-substituting FRIGE for Venus when the days of the week were translated into English. Friday was used as a nickname in the Middle Ages, either for someone born on the day or someone who was a miserable soul-its associations with doom and gloom date back to at least the early modern period.'The expression "Friday-face"-used of someone with a gloomy expression-is found from the sixteenth century. Also, although in modern versions of the children's rhyme "Monday's Child," Friday's child is usually said to be "loving and giving," in older versions, Friday and Wednesday's attributes are switched, making Friday's child the one "full of woe." "The day has also long been associated with bad luck, especially when it coincides with the thirteenth. In Scandinavia, Friday was for many years known as "the Witches' Sabbath" because it was believed that when Christianity was introduced and the old Gods and Goddesses "vanished," Frige, now called a Witch, was said to still hold a gathering each Friday with eleven other Witches-and the Devil, of course. Despite all this, Friday is one of the earliest of the days-of-the-week names found as a given name, dating from the seventeenth century-though this probably represents the use of the short form of FRIDESWIDE. Another source is the surname, deriving from the medieval nickname.

Frideswide 2 Old English: fril "peace" + swi6 "strong," St. Frideswide was an eighth-century saint who was said to have founded a convent in Oxford-the church of which later became Christ Church Cathedral, while the rest of the convent and its lands became Christ Church College. Var: Frithuswith, Frithswith, Fryswyde, Frideswid, Fridswid, Frydiswide, Fridaysweed, Fridayweed, Fridaywed (hist). Dim: FRIDAY.

Friend c Y Some use of Friend as a given name is from the identical surname, which derives from exactly the same source-OE: freond "friend." However, given the fact that about the same time as Friend first appears as a given name-in the early seventeenth century-there are also examples of Friendship, it is likely that the word "friend" itself was also behind some examples.

Frige Y Frige is the Saxon form Frigg, the pan-Germanic Goddess with whom FREYA is usually identified. Wife of Odin, she has the power of prophecy, but keeps her knowledge of the future to herself. A Goddess of marriage and childbirth, she spends her days doing what all good married women did in the past-spinning, except Frigg spins the clouds. Orion's belt is Frigg's distaff or spinning wheel. It is believed that the German folkloric figure Frau Holda or Frau Holle represents a survival of her veneration. In Scandinavia, lady's bedstraw-which is used as a sedative-is called Frigg's grass.'The name derives either from the ProtoGermanic *frijjo "beloved"-cognate with the Sanskrit PRIYA-or *frawjo "lady." In more recent times, the forms Frigga and Friga have sometimes been used to distance her from the English slang "frig" meaning "to have sex" or "to masturbate"-also used as an interjection. 19th C.

Fritillary 2 The name of a genus of plants, and a type of butterfly.'The snake's head fritillary has a distinctive snakeskin pattern on the petals. Late Latin: fritillaria <fritillus "dicebox"-so named because the pattern resembled those found on medieval dice-boxes.'The butterflies-such as the Silverwashed Fritillary and Queen of Spain Fritillary-acquired their names from the plants in the nineteenth century.

Frithiofa Old Norse: FrOpjorf frio"peace"+jjorf`thief." Bearers: the hero of Frithiof's Saga, written down c.1300, but dating from the eighth century. Get, Scand: Fritjof.

Fritz C? Diminutive form of Friedrich, the German form of FREDERICK. 19th C. During the First World War, it was used as a generic term for a German soldier in the same way Tommy was used of a British one. Bearers: Fritz Leiber (1910-92), the American fantasy and science-fiction author.

Frivolity y Old French: frivolite < L:frivulus "silly," "frivolous," and "empty." Frivolity is something frequently dismissed by the sourpusses of society as something worthless, futile, or downright silly-the stuff only of wasted time. But it is the cousin of daydreams, and the friend of happiness and laughter. A little more frivolity in the world would make it a better place. 20th C.

Frodo a' The hero of Tolkiens Lord of the Rings. Tolkien based the name on Scand: Frode. ON: froor "wise." Late 20th C.

Frost 5 Y The beautiful whisper-thin skin of ice, which forms on cold nights and is so evocative of winter. In the past, it often formed on windows in a feather pattern, and was associated with the English folkloric figure Jack Frost, who is sometimes identified with Father Winter or Old Man Winter. Ded Moroz meaning "Grandfather Frost" is the Russian equivalent of Father Christmas. OE: frost < Old Germanic *freusan "to freeze." Frost's early use as a given name was as an adoption of the surname, which derived from the same source as the noun, and was either used of someone who was as cold as frost or, who had white hair. 17th C.

Frumentius c~ Latin name, deriving from frumentum "corn" and "grain." The name of a fourth-century saint said to be responsible for introducing Christianity to Ethiopia. Amharic: Fremnatos. Fem: Frumentia.

Frusannah Y Usually said to be an eighteenth-century blend of FRANCES with SUSANNAH, it is possible that it actually developed as a vernacular form of EUPHROSYNE. Frusan, Fruzan, Fruzanna all occur in the early seventeenth century. An interesting aside appeared in the New York Times on May 10th, 1909, which ran thus: "An unprincipled London Journalist has dragged the hideous name Frusannah from the obscurity of an eighteenth-century parish register and says that it was common in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. And the English sneer at our `Luella! It just goes to show that snobbery-and ignorance-about so-called "made-up" names was just as rife a hundred years ago as it is today. For the record, Frusannah has never been anything other than rare.

Fruzsina ? Hungarian name-the shorter and more usual form of Eufrozina (see Euphrosyne). In the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the name

spread to the Balkans as Frosina, and it is still used in Serbia, Macedonia, and Albania-Frosina was the first Macedonian film in 1952.

Fuamnach Y The name of a Witch of the Tuatha De Danann. Described in the eighth-/ninth-century Irish text The Wooing of Etain as clever and cunning, she was the first wife of Midir-and didn't take too kindly to Midir marrying train. The Wooing of Etain describes her efforts to get rid of train, which included swallowing her and giving birth to her as her own daughter. Ga: fuaimm "noise" or "sound." Var: Fuaimnech.

Fuchsia Y The name of the genus of attractive flowering shrubs was created in the eighteenth century in honor of the sixteenth-century German botanist Leonhard Fuchs, whose surname means "fox" in German. 19th C. Bearers: Lady Fuchsia Groan, one of the principal characters in Peake's Gormenghast series (1946-59).

Fuji Y Mount Fuji is familiar to millions who have never even seen it with their own eyes as the symbol of Japan, invariably depicted with cherry blossom in bloom in the foreground. Its meaning is uncertain; and numerous interpretations are given. In the tenth century, it was said to come from Jp: fushi "immortal." In the nineteenth century, an English missionary suggested that it came from Ainu:fuchi "fire" linking it with the Japanese fire God Kamui Fuchi. Others have derived it from fuji "wisteria," which is used as a girl's name in Japan.

Fulcher c Old German:fo/c "people" + heri "army." Introduced by the Normans, it did not survive.

Fulgentius c? Latin: Fulgentius "of Fulgens." L: Fulgens "shining" and "dazzling" < fulgeo "to flash." According to Geoffrey of Monmouth, Fulgentius was the name of one of the legendary kings of Britain.'There are also a couple of saints of the name-one a seventh-century Spanish bishop. Port, Sp: Fulgencio, It: Fulgenzio. Bearers: Fulgencio Batista (1901-73), the Cuban dictator.

Fulgura y Roman Goddess of lightning. L: fulgur "lightning" < fulgeo "to flash."

Fulke c~ The English form of OF: Fulco < OG:folc "people." It was introduced to Britain by the Normans and quickly established itself as a popular medieval name. Surnames such as Folkes, Foulkes, and Volkes derive from it. Var: Folco, Fulk, Folche, Fouke, Fowk, Fowke (hist). Fowk remained a Romani name long into modern times. Scand: Folke. Bearers: Fulke Greville (1554-1628), an Elizabethan poet, dramatist, and statesman.

Fulla ? Norse Goddess-a hand-maiden of Frigg. As Volla, her name appears in a tenth-century incantation called the "Horse Cure"-one of two magical incantations preserved in the text known as the "Merseburg Incantations."The meaning of her name is unknown. A number of etymologies exist, none of which is especially convincing, although-oddly enough-none make the most obvious connection with ON: fol "snow."

Fulvia Y Feminine form of the Roman gens Fulvius. L: fulvus "tawny," "yellowish-brown," or "sandy." Mark Antony's first wife was a Fulvia, and Fulvia Plautilla was the wife of the Emperor Caracalla in the early third century CE. 19th C.

Furrina 2 An obscure Roman Goddess. By the late Republic, even the Romans weren't too sure about her sphere. It is possible that she is a Goddess of water, particularly, perhaps, hot springs.'This may also indicate an association with healing-if parallels are drawn with deities such as Berw and Winifred-and there are a number of clues which suggest this link. She had a shrine and a sacred spring in Rome, and her festival fell close to Neptune's, both indicative of watery connection. Most compelling is the likely derivation of her name, which probably comes from PIE: *beerw- "to boil" and "to brew" from which L: fervo "to boil" and W: berwi "to boil" both derive.'This would make Furrina cognate with the Celtic Goddess BORMANNA-in name, if not also in function.

Fury Y Latin: furia "fury" < furo "to rage."The Furies-L: Furiae, Gr: Erinyes or Eumenides-were the divine avengers of all transgressions, particularly against family, and pursued the guilty relentlessly. 19th C.

Fuyuko Y Japanese name fuyu "winter" + ko "child."

Fyne c~ Y The name of a Scottish loch in the west of Scotland. In Gaelic, its name is Loch Finn < fion "wine" or fionan "vine." Fyne is also a medieval spelling of the English "fine," which has meant "refined," "of superior quality," and "perfect" since the early fourteenth century.

Gabija Y Lithuanian name. Gabija is a Lithuanian Goddess who shares many of the characteristics of the Greek Goddess Hestia and the Celtic Brigid. She is a Goddess of fire, but very much in a domestic setting-the fire of the hearth and thus also the home. Her name is thought to be connected with the Lithuanian gaubti meaning "to cover" and "to put," implying a protective role, though it can also mean "to bend" and "to turn outwards."

Gabriel c~ Y The archangel. Heb: "strong man of (a) God." 12th C. Since the nineteenth century, also used for girls. Dim: Gabe. Hun: Gabor, Fr, Ger, Port, Rom, Sp: Gabriel, It: Gabriele, Ru: Gavriil, Ar: Jabril, Fin: Kaapro. Bearers: Gabriel Oak, one of the main characters in Thomas Hardy's *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874); Gabriel Gray, a character in the American television series *Heroes* (2006-10); Gabriel, a banjo-playing frog in the British children's television series *Bagpuss* (1974); Gabriel de Witt, a powerful enchanter in Diana Wynne Jones's *Chrestomanci* series (1977-2006).

Gabriella Y Feminine of GABRIEL. 16th C. Dim: Gabby, Gaby, Gabie, Gabbi, Gabbie, ELLA. Var: Gabriela, Gabrilla. Cz, Pol, Port, Rom, Slk, Sp: Gabriela, Ger: Gabriele, It: Gabriella, Fr: Gabrielle-used in the ESW since the nineteenth century.

Gad c~ Hebrew: gad "fortune." A name borne by more than one character in the Bible, the best known being one of the sons of Jacob and a brother of Joseph-he probably was never a real person, but a character invented to explain the origin of the Gadites. A more intriguing real source of the name of the tribe is the Mesopotamian God Gad-whose name meant exactly the same. He is a God of fortune-both good and bad. 16th C.

Gadifer c? Medieval name in use between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. The variant Gaddifer is found as the name of a legendary king of Scotland who features in medieval Arthurian Romance. Gaidifer, Gaudifeir, and Gaytefer are further versions known, and the latter provides the strongest clue to its probable source-GWYTHYR.

Gael c~ French form of the Breton Gael, which probably arose as a short form of Judicael (see Joel) or Gwenael < gwenn "white" + hael "magnanimous" and "noble" or mael "prince." It was taken up into general use in France in the latter twentieth century, being identified with Gael "Gael"-i.e. the Gaelic Celts of Ireland and Scotland. The use of Gael in the ESW may be a direct adoption of this, rather than of the French name. Fem: Gaelle.

Gaetano c~ Italian name. Medieval Latin: Caietanus "of Gaeta," from its ancient name Caieta. Gaeta is a town in Lazio, at the heart of an important medieval duchy. Its name is traditionally derived from Gr: kaietos "fissure produced by an earthquake," a variant of kaiadas "pit" or "underground cavern." It was borne by a sixteenth-century Italian saint, who has popularized its use among Roman Catholics. Port: Caetano, Fr: Gaetan, Ger. KAJETAN.

Gage c~ English surname. OF: guage "fixed measure"; the name arose metonymically for someone responsible for measuring or testing things (such as coins, etc.). The word "gage" also came to be used in the Middle Ages for something of value used as a guarantee or pledge, forfeited if whatever had been promised was not delivered. Gage is also sometimes used for the greengage-a type of green plum introduced from France in the eighteenth century-which takes its name from the surname. 17th C. Var: Gaige.

Gaia Y The primordial Greek Goddess of the Earth, whose name means simply "earth." She is sometimes known in Greek as Ge, and Gaea in Latin. Of all the Greek and Roman deities, she personifies best the post-classical concept of Mother Nature. The English scientist James Lovelock chose her to represent his theory that the Earth is one living ecosystem, essentially a single organism, and Gaia is one of the principal Goddesses venerated by many modern Pagans. 19th C. British actress Emma Thompson's daughter is called Gaia (b. 1999).

Gail 2 a' Gail is generally regarded as a short form of ABIGAIL adopted into independent use. However, Gail is also a variant spelling of the surname GALE. As such, it actually came into use much earlier than most would suppose, with examples of Gail as a male name found from the

eighteenth century. As a girl's name most use is twentieth century. Bearers: Gail Borden, Jr. (1801-74), the American inventor; Gail Wynand, a character in Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* (1943), also male.

Gaius a' The most common Roman praenomen. So common was it that in the Roman wedding ceremony, the bride said *ubi tu Gaius, ego Gaia*-"where you are Gaius, I am Gaia." Its origin, however, is disputed. In the past it was associated with *L: gaudere* "to rejoice" but a more likely etymology is from *GAIA*. Gaius was used in Britain in the Roman period, and survived in use in Wales as *CAI*. There is more than one Gaius in the New Testament, but the name's resurrection in the sixteenth century was probably as much down to the Pagan bearers of Antiquity. Var: Caius. Bearers: Gaius Julius Caesar (100-44 BCE); Gaius Valerius Catullus (c. 84-54 BCE), the poet; Emperor Gaius (12-41 CE)-who is usually called Caligula; Gaius Cornelius Tacitus (56-117 CE), the historian.

Galadriel Y In Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, Galadriel is the main name used of the queen of the elves of Lothlorien. Sindarin: *galad* "light" and "radiance" + *riel* "garlanded maiden." Late 20th C. Var: Galadrielle (mod).

Galahad C? One of the knights of the Round Table, famous for being the best and the purest of heart, who became the chief hero of the Grail Cycles in later versions. He first appears in the thirteenth-century *Queste del Saint Graal* and unlike most Arthurian characters, he does not seem to have a Celtic origin; his name probably derives from *GILEAD*. Although Galahad first seems to have been used in the sixteenth century, most use post-dates Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*.

Galanthis 2 A servant of Hercules's mother Alcmene, who tricked the Goddess Lucina into allowing Alcmene to give birth (Hera had ordered her to prevent it). As a result, Galanthis was turned into a weasel. This was no doubt suggested by the fact that Gr: *gale* means "weasel," "polecat," and "pine marten." However, her name is probably from the same source as *Galanthus*-the botanical name for the snowdrop-Gr: *gala* "mill" + *anthos* "flower."

Galatea Y A name borne by more than one figure in Greek mythology, most notably one of the Nereids, who had a tragic love affair with the

shepherd Acis. He was killed in a jealous rage by Galatea's suitor, the Cyclops Polyphemus. Gr: gala "milk'-thus "milky-white (woman)." In later versions of the legend of Pygmalion, Galatea was used for the statue which Pygmalion famously carved and fell in love with. 17th C. La Galatea (1585) was the first work by Miguel de Cervantes.

Galaxy cc Y Latin: galaxias "milk-stone" and "Milky Way" < Gr: gala "milk." Its original use in English was the same, and it acquired its modern astronomical meaning only in the nineteenth century. Late 20th C.

Galder c Middle English: galder "charm" and "incantation" < OE: galdor and galdor < galan "to sing." This hints at what a "galder" entailed, and the Old Norse cognate is more explicit. Galdr means both "charm" and "magic song." And in the plural-galdrar-it means "Witchcraft." Galdrafoir "father of the magic songs" was a byname of Odin. Tolkien used Galdor as an Elvish name, one of whom-Galdor of the Havens-gets a mention in The Lord of the Rings. There are examples of Galdra as a girl's name in America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but whether it represents a conscious adaptation of Galder to create a feminine name from it is impossible to say.

Galdrakona 2 Old Norse: galdrakona "Witch" < galdr "magic song" + kona "woman" and "wife."

Gale ? d Gale was first used for boys in the seventeenth or eighteenth century as an adoption of the surname. Principally, it derives from OE: gal "light," "pleasant," "merry," and "wanton," but another source is the Norman French gaoile "jail"-probably used of a jailor. As a verb, "gale" (also spelled "gad") meant "to deliver an oracular response," and is thus strongly linked to GALDER. As a noun, "gale" is an old name for the bog-myrtle; it survives in the country name sweet gale. It is also an obsolete word meaning "singing," "merriment," and "mirth." Lastly, it is the name of a type of strong wind or storm-of uncertain origin-and it is this meaning which is usually uppermost in people's minds when they hear the word. It is, however, quite a young word, dating only to the sixteenth century. In the twentieth century, Gale came into use as a variant of GAIL. Var: Gayle.

Galen c\ Anglicized form of Galenus, the name of the second-century CE Roman medic and writer. His influence on medicine was far-reaching, being a standard reference work for doctors in the Middle Ages and early modern period. Gr: galenos "calm" and "gentle." The surname Galen derives from GALIEN. Galen is also an anagram of "angel." 17th C. Var: Gallen, Gallan.

Galena Y A type of ore from which lead is extracted, sometimes called blackjack or lead-glance. Galena was first used by Pliny the Elder to refer to a particular stage in the smelting process. A shiny, metallic stone, it is used for calming, grounding, and harmonizing. Gr: galene "a calm." 19th C.

Galene Y Greek: galenos "calm" (used particularly of the sea) and "gentle," Galene is one of the Nereids. Var: GALENA. 19th C. Ru: Galina; Gala, Galia, Galya (dim).

Galfrid Gc Variant of GEOFFREY, formed from the Medieval Latin Galfridus. Pinning down when it was first used is not easy as Galfridus was used in Latin records in place of Geoffrey into the seventeenth century. Galfrid was definitely in genuine use outside records by the early eighteenth century. Galfridus has also been used as a genuine name in its own right since at least the eighteenth century.

Galien c' Medieval name, Latinized as Galienus, the origin of surnames such as Galleon and Galen. It is found in the Medieval French Galien le Restore, in which Galien is the son of Oliver the Paladin, which suggests that it may have a Germanic origin. It may derive from the same source as OE: galan "to sing" (see Gale and Galder). Fem: Galiena (hist).

Galileo a Italian name. L: Galilaeus "of Galilee" or "the Galilean"-a reference to Jesus. Largely now used in honor of the mathematician and astronomer Galileo Galilei (1564-1642). 19th C. Fem: Galilea. Like other biblical place names, Galilee (Heb: "province") itself has been in use in the ESW since the seventeenth century.

Galingale 2 Gc Galingale seems to be used less in the West now than it was in the late medieval and early modern period. Ruled by Mars and Fire,

among its magical uses are as a good luck charm and a talisman to attract prosperity, or to increase psychic awareness. Medicinally, it is used for complaints of the digestive system, to reduce fever and to control bacterial and fungal infections. The word has traveled all the way from Chinese through Persian, Arabic and French; it is said originally to have been Ko-liang-kiang "mild ginger from Ko." It has been in the English language since around 1000 CE. Var: Galingal.

Gallant c? Gallant is found as a given name from the seventeenth century, but it is probably the surname being used as a given name rather than a direct adoption of the English noun and adjective-though they all come from the same source. OF: galant "dashing," "spirited," and "bold" < galer "to make merry" or "to make a show." This was reflected in the original English meaning of "gallant"- "showy" and "finely dressed." The senses of "chivalrous" and "bold" only date to the sixteenth century.

Gamaliel c? Biblical name. Heb: "recompense of (a) God." The "G" in Warren G. Harding's name (1865-1923)-an American president in the early 1920s-stood for Gamaliel.

Gamel c? Old Norse: gamall "old." Introduced by the Vikings, it survived into the surname period. Dim: Gamelin. Gemmel is a variant which just about clung on in use in Scotland.

Gamelia Y Epithet of Hera. Gr: gamelios "belonging to a wedding," "bridal," and "nuptial." 17th C. Var: Gamalia.

Ganbold c~ Mongolian name-gan "steel" + bold "steel."

Gandalf ci Gandalf is now famous as the name of a wizard in Tolkien's Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings. So famous, indeed, that most people don't realize that Gandalf is not just a product of Professor Tolkien's imagination; it is in fact the name of a dwarf in Norse mythology. ON: gandr "magic staff" + afr "elf." Late 20th C.

Ganesh e From Ganesha, the name of the elephant-headed Hindu God of good fortune. San: gana "band," "group," "crowd," "troop," and "sward" + asa "lord."

Ganymede c~ Anglicized form of Ganymedes, the name of an extremely beautiful Trojan prince, who was beloved by Zeus. Zeus carried him off to become his cup-bearer and made him immortal, and he is often associated with the constellation Aquarius. The etymology of his name is very uncertain; it may possibly be Gr: ganumai "to be glad" + medos "plans" and "counsels." However, it may well be the Hellenized form of a non-Greek name-not surprising, as he wasn't actually Greek. Early 20th C.

Garbhan e Old Irish name, borne by a seventh-century saint. Jr Ga: garbh "rough" + dim. suffix -an.

Gardenia ? A genus of flowering trees and shrubs with fragrant flowers. It was coined from the name of the botanist Dr. Alexander Garden (1730-91) at the end of the eighteenth century. Late 19th C.

Gareth c~ One of the Knights of the Round Table.'The origins of the name are shadowy. It occurs in a number of forms including Gahariet, Gaharet, Gahareth, Gariet, Charheries, and Carahes.'The earliest form-Carahes (which occurs in Chretien de Troyes's Perceval-is notably similar to Gaheris, the name of Gareth's brother, and it may be that the two knights were once one and the same. A likely source is a character in the Mabinogion named Gweir Gwrhyt Ennwir. Gweir means "grass" and "hay" and was a name borne by a number of figures in Welsh mythology, but it is perhaps more likely Gareth evolved from his epithet-OW: gwrhyt "valor"-rather than from Gweir itself The word gwrhyt is almost certainly behind Gwriad, the name borne by a soldier mentioned in YGododdin-and he too might be the original Gareth. Another contender is Gweirydd-OW: gweir + iud(d) "lord"-who features in "'The Dream of Rhonabwy.'" Gareth features prominently in Tennyson's Idylls of the King, and most use stems from this. Bearers: Gareth Knight (b. 1930), the British writer on ritual magic and the Kabbalah; Gareth Thomas (b. 1945), the Welsh actor.

Garfield cc English surname. OE: gara "triangular plot of land" < gar "spear" + feld "open country" or "tract of land cleared of trees." No place exists today of the name in Britain, though it may have been the name of a lost village, hamlet or farmstead. 17th C-most use post-dates the presidency of James A. Garfield (1831-81). It is now best-known as the name of a cartoon cat created by American cartoonist Jim Davis in 1978.

Garion c~ The principal character in David Eddings's Belgariad series (1982-84). He is also called Belgarion. Latter 20th C.

Garmon English surname, from OE: Garmund-gar "spear" + mund "protection." It is also the Welsh form of GERMAN. 18th C.

Garnet c~ Y As a boy's name, Garnet represents the transferred use of the surname, deriving in part from the medieval names Guarinot and Warinot, pet-forms of WARREN. It also comes from OF: garnetier-a granary-keeper, or a maker of garnets (T-shaped hinges for doors). 17th C. The girl's name dates to the nineteenth century. Some of this use is also surname related, but mostly it represents the adoption of the name of the precious stone. Garnets have been known and used since ancient times. They are considered the birthstone of January and Capricorn. OF: gernat or grenat < L: granatum-which also meant "pomegranate." The stone received its name because of the similarity of its color to the juice of the pomegranate. A healing and regenerative stone, the garnet promotes perseverance and hope. It is also associated with inner-sight and grounding; the eyes of snakes are believed to be made of garnets-indicative of its strong association both with sight and the Earth. It has long been used as an amulet to protect travelers. Var: Garnette.

Garrett c? English surname, from Garret, a medieval variant of GERARD. 16th C-although some early examples might be survivals of the medieval name.

Garrick c~ English surname of Huguenot origins. Fr: carrigue "place covered with oaks." 18th C. Sometimes used in honor of David Garrick (1717-79), the English actor.

Garrison a English surname, partly deriving from Garriston in Yorkshire-a place of uncertain etymology-and partly as a variant of Gerardson "son of GERARD." It is unrelated to the English word "garrison" < OF: garrison "defense," "safety," and "store," even though the word has been in use in England since the late thirteenth century. 19th C.

Garth c~ English surname. ME: garth-a piece of enclosed land employed as a yard or garden, etc., probably used as a name for someone in charge of

such a piece of land. The word is used in some Germanic Pagan groups as an alternative to "kindred." 17th C. Its use in Florence Barclay's novel *The Rosary* (1908) promoted its use in the twentieth century.

Gary c~ "There is a rare surname Gary, a variant of Geary, deriving in part from Old German Geric-ger "spear" + ricja-which became Geri in Norman French, and ME: gery "giddy" and "changeable." Most examples of Gary prior to the 1920s are probably this name. In the nineteenth century, it was used as a short form names beginning Gar-, particularly GARRETT. The actor Gary Cooper (1901-1961), who rose to stardom in the late 1920s, is responsible for most of the name's use. His birth name was Frank, and he reputedly took Gary from the city of Gary, Indiana, which was named after Elbert E. Gary (1846-1927), one of the founders of U. S. Steel. Var: Garry, Garrie. Dim: Gaz.

Gaston c? French name meaning "Gascon," i.e. someone from Gascony in Southern France. It was used in France from the Middle Ages. Bearers: Gaston, Duke of Orleans (1608-60), son of the French King Henri IV.

Gaura Y Indian name. San: gaura "splendid" and "fair." It is also the name of a genus of flowering plants from North America, related to the evening primrose.

Gauri Y Indian name. San: gaura "splendid" and "fair." One of the names of the Goddess Parvati. Var: Gowr.

Gautama c~ Ancient Indian name. San: go "cow" + uttama "best." Var: Gotama, Gotam-the usual modern form. Bearers: Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, who is believed to have lived between the seventh and fifth centuries BCE.

Gauze, Gauzy Y "Gauze" is the name of a fine, transparent silk, cotton, or linen fabric, known in the West since the sixteenth century. It is just possibly linked with Gaza in Palestine. "Gauzy" dates to the eighteenth century.

Gavia Y In Roman times, gavia was the name of a type of bird, thought to be the seamew. It is now used as the scientific name for a genus of sea-

birds including divers (called loons in North America). 20th C.

Gavin cc Scottish form of GAWAIN, in use there since the Middle Ages. It is also found from time to time in other

parts of the ESW prior to the nineteenth century, after which it was taken up more widely. Dim: Gav. Bearers: Gavin Maxwell (1914-69), the Scottish writer and naturalist, best known for *Ring of Bright Water* (1960); Gavin Frost (b. 1930), who co-founded the Church and School of Wicca in 1968; Gavin Bone (b. 1964), an influential British Wiccan writer and lecturer.

Gawain c' A Knight of the Round Table. He first appears in the writings of William of Malmesbury as Gualguainus in the early twelfth century, and then in Geoffrey of Monmouth not long after. Since Geoffrey drew mostly on Welsh tradition, it is likely Gawain had a Welsh origin. He has close parallels with Gwalchmai, and in later Welsh Arthurian Romances, he is called Gwalchmai. How Gwalchmai may have become Gualguainus, however, is difficult to explain. It is possible that Malmesbury simply misheard-or thought he'd misheard and substituted the unfamiliar name element -mai with the Welsh gwyn which the -guainus of Gualguainus almost certainly represents. The tangle of letters at the centre of Gwalchmai are certainly not the easiest for a non-Welsh speaker to pronounce-let alone turn into Medieval Latin. Another potential source is the Old Welsh name Gwen, which may mean "smile," like the identical Modern Welsh word. It was borne by one of the sons of Llywarch Hen in the sixth century. Other medieval forms of Gawain's name are Galwan, Gauan, Gauvain, Gauvein, Gauven, Gavain, Gaven, Gavion, Gawaine, Gawan, Gawayne, Gawein, Gawen, Gawin, and Gowin. Some of these hint at a relationship with GOFANNON. Many saw use as genuine given names in the Middle Ages, with some surviving here and there-such as GAVIN in Scotland-until the nineteenth century, when the fashion for all things Arthurian saw Gawain revived.

Gay c 2 English surname. OF: gai "full of joy"-English "gay" "cheerful," "merry," and "care-free," derives from the same source. The surname is responsible for its use from the seventeenth century, the adjective for girls from the late nineteenth. The word only took on the sense of "homosexual"

in the early twentieth century, and has virtually wiped out its use in any other sense-and the name along with it. Var: Gaye.

Gaylord e English surname. It developed in part from OG: Gailhard gail "lofty" + hardu "hard," and in part from OF: gaillard "lively" and "brisk." 17th C.

Gaynor Y Form of GUINEVERE used in Wales and the Welsh Marches since at least the fifteenth century, spreading to the ESW at the end of the nineteenth. Var: Gaenor, Gainor, Gaynore, Gayner, Gainer. Solomon a Gaenor (1999) is an Oscar-nominated Welsh language film.

Gazania Y A flowering plant from South Africa. It was named in the late eighteenth century after a fifteenth-century Greek scholar called 'Theodorus Gaza. Gr: gaza "treasure." Late 20th C.

Gazelle 2 A species of antelope, celebrated for its grace, agility, and beauty, and the softness of its eyes. In the past, it was much associated with women and womanly charms. Ar: ghazal "gazelle" < ghazal "to court" and "to flirt with." 20th C. Var: Gazella.

Gealach Y Irish Gaelic: gealach "moon."

Geber c~ The name of a famous eighth-century alchemist, and a twelfth-century astronomer. There is also a third individual known as Pseudo-Geber, who wrote books on alchemy in the fourteenth century. It is a variant transliteration of the Arabic name Jabir-jabir "restorer" and "bone-setter," and is connected with JAB RU.

Ged G~ The central character in Ursula K. Le Guin's Wizard of Earthsea (1968). 20th C.

Geileis Y Modern Gaelic form of Gelgeis, a name which occurs more than once in Irish myth and legend. Geilis is found in the Middle Ages and the name was still in use in Scotland in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries in forms such as Gelie. 01: gel "white," "fair," and "shining" + geis "swan"-although its later use in Scotland may also have been influenced by Sc Ga: geilleas "kindness" and "friendship." Bearers: Gelie

or Geilis Duncan (d. 1591) was one of those tried for Witchcraft in the North Berwick Witch trials, which were sparked by accusations that Witches had attempted to sink the ship carrying King James VI of Scotland home from Denmark with his bride Anne of Denmark. Geilis was tortured into confession, strangled, and burnt to death.

Geisha 2 The tradition of the geisha of Japan developed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Jp: gei "art" + sha "person." Geisha are professional female entertainers, specializing in traditional Japanese song and dance, principally to entertain men.'The word entered English at the end of the nineteenth century, and the romance of the world of the geisha captured Western imagination. L. 19th C.

Gelasius e Latin form of Greek Gelasios < gelasis "laughing" < gelaseio "to be ready to laugh." It came into use quite late in the Roman period and was borne by a late fifth-century pope and saint. In Ireland, it has been used to render Glaisne. Fem: Gelasia.

Gellert c~ Hungarian form of GERARD. It was made popular in Hungary by St. Gellert (980-1046), who is also known as St. Gerard Sagredo. As Gellert, it features in the Harry Potter books as the name of a wicked wizard. Very similar is Gelert, known as the name of the dog in the legend of Beddgelert- "Gelert's Grave"-in Wales. His master, Llywelyn ap Iorweth, killed him thinking he had attacked and eaten his baby son; the baby was gone, and the dog was covered in blood. However, moments later, the baby was discovered safe and sound-along with the body of a wolf, which Gelert had in fact killed protecting the child.'The story was actually a nineteenth-century invention designed to put Beddgelert on the map-it worked, and people have been making the pilgrimage to Beddgelert ever since.'The actual source of the name is an obscure sixth-century saint-Celert, who is also called Celer. Celer was a common Roman cognomen. L: celer "swift," but this probably only represents the name's Latin form.'There is an outside chance that Celert is actually a much mangled form of CULHWCH.

Gem Y c~ As a girl's name, Gem started out as a pet-form of GEMMA, coming into independent use in the late nineteenth century, and treated as a direct adoption of the English "gem." It is identical in pronunciation to Jem, a pet-form of JAMES, JEMIMA, and JEREMY, which has probably also

influenced its usage.'There is a surname Gem, deriving from Gemma and James (from Gemme, a medieval form of Jem), which may be responsible for early examples in the eighteenth century.

Gemini Y cc The name of the constellation and sign of the zodiac, often referred to in English as "the Heavenly Twins." They represent the twins Castor and Pollux, sons of Zeus by Leda-although in some versions of the myths, only one is Zeus's son (usually Pollux), while Castor is often assigned to Leda's mortal husband, Tyndareus, King of Sparta. L: gemini "twins" < geminus "twin." "The dates of the sign are May 21 to June 20, and it is ruled by Mercury and Air. Geminis have a reputation for being inventive, inquisitive, sociable, and funny. Being born under a symbol of duality, however, is said to make them prone to duality themselves, making them indecisive and changeable. 19th C.

Gemma 2 Latin: gemma "bud," "gem," and "jewel." Gemma is also the traditional name of Alpha Coronae Borealis- Gemma is, quite literally, the "jewel in the crown." It was used as a girl's name in the Middle Ages, but didn't survive. One or two examples dot the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but it wasn't until the nineteenth that the name began to be used again. Var: Jemma (mod). Dim: Gem, Gemmie, Gemmy. Bearers: Gemma Craven (b. 1950), the Irish-born actress.

Generys Y Old Welsh name; borne by one of the lovers of the poet Hywel ab Owain in the twelfth century.'The etymology is fuzzy; the first element may be MW: gen "family" or even geneth "girl," while the second is probably MW: ner "chief" and "hero." 20th C.

Genesis a' Y Greek: genesis "origin," "source," "generation," and "creation." It also meant "birth" and thus "(birth-calculated) horoscope." It passed into Latin with similar meanings, though the idea of horoscope was extended and it was also used of a person's natal-star. Only later was it bestowed upon the first book of the Bible, and this is what most people now associate the word with, although it is still used generally to mean "birth," "origin," or "creation." 19th C.

Genesius a' Greek: genesios "of a persons birth" and "of a person's family." Epithet of Poseidon, understood to mean "ancestor of a persons family." In

Pagan Greece, to genesia was the name given to a day kept in memory of the birthday of the dead.

Genetrix 2 Epithet of Venus. L: genetrix "mother" (literally "she that has borne").

Geneva Y The Swiss city. In Roman times, it was usually called Genava, but was also known as Geneva and Genna. CC: *wi-na- "to bend" or "to enclose," or *genu- "jaw" and "mouth"-hence "estuary"-both of which would refer to its situation.'The identically named Dutch gin is etymologically unrelated. Old Dutch: genever "juniper"-the source of the English word "gin"itself. 19th C.

Genevieve Y The patron saint of Paris-correctly Genevieve-whose name in medieval times was recorded as Genoveva and Genovefa. She was said to be a fifth-century peasant girl, who became a nun and whose prayers saved Paris from Attila the Hun, a hint that Genevieve is really the tutelary Goddess of the city.'The name was also borne by another figure in medieval legend called Genevieve of Brabant. Her story bears interesting parallels with that of Rhiannon-she is a wife falsely accused of a crime (in Genevieve's case, of unchastity), who is forced to live outside society for a number of years before innocence is proved (Genevieve spent the time in a cave on a mountain with her baby son and a helpful roe-deer).The etymology is very unclear. The first element is probably CC: *geno- "born" or *genos"family"-ultimately from the same PIE root that gave L: genius "tutelar deity."The second may be *wihu- "worthy" and "valuable"-a variant of the more usual *wesu- "excellent" and "noble." Intriguingly, the name Genvissa (almost certainly *geno- + *wesu-)-occurs in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* (c. 1136) as the name of the wife of the British king Arviragus, and the Latin name of St. Wenna is Genuissa. Genevieve is found in Britain between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries in forms such as Geneveve, shortened to Geva, and it may be responsible for some instances of the surname Jeeves and Geeves. Revived 18th C. Ger: Genovefa, It: Genoveffa, Fr: Ginette (dim). Genevieve (1953) is a film in which Genevieve is a 1904 car.

Genie y French: genie < L: genius-a term understood by Romans to carry the sense of the Divine innate to everything, thus the "spiritual part" or

simply "spirit." They used it to mean "tutelar deity" and "spirit of a person or place." This was also the sense of the French and thus the original sense of the English. Since the eighteenth century, Genie has been used as the English form of JINNEE, becoming the usual form in English, but its original sense lives on in the fact it is still sometimes used to mean "natural bent" or "disposition." As a given name, Genie was first used as a pet-form of EUGENE and EUGENIA. First found independently in the nineteenth century.

Genista Y Latin: genista "broom"-the plant. Broom has long been prized for the yellow dye extracted from it. It has a history of use in herbal medicine as a diuretic and emetic, while flowers sprinkled in the bath were reputed to ease rheumatic pain (the plant is poisonous, however, and should only be prescribed for internal use by a qualified herbalist). Ruled by Mars and the element of Air, it is a plant which features prominently in magic and myth too. Mostly used for purification and protection, it is also said to have been added to sleeping drafts given to men so their wives could go off and spend the night with their lovers. When Math and Gwydion fashioned a bride for Lleu Llaw Gyffes, they did so with flowers of oak, broom, and meadowsweet. 19th C.

Genoa Y The historic Italian sea-port; called Genova in Italian. It originally belonged to the Ligurians, the tribe of the region around it, prior to becoming a Roman province. What language the Ligurians spoke is not known, and so it is very difficult to establish Genoa's original meaning. Most seem to think it shares the same etymological options as GENEVA. 19th C.

Gentian Y of The name of more than one herb. L: Gentiana "gentian," said to have been named after an Ilyrian king called Gentius, though its real etymology is unknown. The yellow gentian is native to Southern Europe (including Illyria), and has been used in herbal medicine since ancient times to stimulate the digestive system, reduce inflammation and lower fever. The autumn gentian-also known as felwort and baldmoney-has similar properties. It is a plant of Mars and the element Fire, and is used magically in love spells, or to add general potency. Early 20th C.

Geoffrey c~ Geoffrey evolved from at least two Old German names- Gaufrid and Walahfrid-and possibly also a third, Gisfrid. Some prefer to make it simply a variant of GODFREY. Certainly, in later times, Godfrey and Geoffrey were much confused. All these names have as their second element the Germanicfrithu meaning "peace."The first elements are OG: gavja "district," valha "traveler," and gisall "pledge" and "hostage" respectively. It was taken to Britain by the Normans as Geoffroi and occurs in Latin records in forms such as Gaufridus, Gosfridus, and Galfridus.'The variant Jeffreythe preferred form in America-first began to appear in the late thirteenth century. Var: Jeffery, Jefrey. Dim: Geoff, Jeff. Bearers: Geoffrey of Monmouth (c. 1100-55), whose writings are an important source for British history and mythology; Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1343-1400); Geoffrey Gallowglass, a character in Christopher Stasheff's Warlock of Gramarye series (1969-2004); Geoffrey Rush (b. 1951), the Australian actor.

Geordie c? Pet-form of GEORGE, used especially in the North of England. It first emerged in the eighteenth century, and started to be used as a name in its own right from the late nineteenth century. Since that time, it has become a generic term for someone who hails from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the dialect peculiar to the region. Var: Geordi. Bearers: Geordi La Forge, a character in the American television science-fiction series Star Trek:7heNext Generation (1987-94).

George c~ 2 Greek: georgos, "tilling the ground," "fertilizing," "husbandman," and "farmer" < georgo "to till the ground," i.e. "to plough," "to be a husbandman" < ge "earth" + ergo "to work."The legendary St. George was reputed to have been martyred in the early fourth century, and is much venerated by the Eastern Orthodox Church. He has been the patron saint of England since the fourteenth century, even though he has nothing to do with the place; the patronage stems from the fact he was adopted as the personal patron saint of King Edward III.'The business with the dragon only appears in the hagiographies from the eleventh century, and was probably simply a reworking of the Greek myth of Perseus and Andromeda. 12th C. George is sometimes found as a girl's name, as a short form of GEORGIA and GEORGINA. Dim: Georgie, Georgy, GEORDIE. Serb: Dorde, Sc Ga: Debrsa, Sebrsa, Est, Ger, Nor:

Georg, Fr: Georges, Gr: Georgios, Ru: Georgiy, YURI, Arm: Gevorg, Kevork, Rom: Gheorghe, It: Giorgio, Alb: Gjergji, Sw: Goran, Maltese: Gorg, Basque: Gorka, Hun: Gyorgy, Pol: Jerzy, Cz: Jici, Cat: Jordi, Ger: Jorg, Jurgen, Port, Sp: Jorge, Sw: Jorgen, Dan: Jorgen, Nor: Jorgen, Goran, Dut: Joris, Sjors, Breton: Jorj, Dut: Jurgen, Ger: Jurgen, Lith: Jurgis, Haw: Keoki, It Ga: Seoirse, W: Sibr, Fin: Yrjo. Bearers: 4 King Georges of Great Britain, beginning with King George I (1660-1727) in 1714 and ending with George IV (1762-1830); George Ripley (fl. 1477), an English alchemist; Rev. George Burroughs (c. 1652-92), the only minister accused, convicted, and executed for Witchcraft during the Salem Witch trials; George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), the Irish playwright. George Weasley is a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Georgette 2 French feminine form of GEORGE. In the early twentieth century, it was bestowed upon a type of semitransparent fabric, often made of silk. Used in France since at least the sixteenth century, and in the ESW from the late nineteenth century. Bearers: Georgette Magritte (1901-86), the wife of the artist Rene, commemorated in Paul Simon's song "Rene and Georgette Magritte with their Dog After the War" (1983); Georgette Heyer (1902-74), the English novelist.

Georgia Y Feminine form of GEORGE. It was bestowed upon the newly founded colony of Georgia in 1732 in honor of King George II of England, the reigning monarch at the time. Georgia was barely used as a girl's name in his day the usual feminine form of George in the early eighteenth century was GEORGIANA. There was, however, a St. Georgia who lived c. 500. Georgia was first used widely as a girl's name in America in the nineteenth century, spreading to the rest of the ESW at the end of the century. Var: Jorja (mod); Dim: GEORGE, Georgie. It: Giorgia, Cro: Djurdja (more correctly written Durda). Bearers: Georgia O'Keefe (1887- 1986), the American artist; Georgia Douglas Johnson (1880- 1966), the American poet.

Georgiana Y Feminine form of GEORGE used from the early eighteenth century. Bearers: Lady Georgiana Spencer, Duchess of Devonshire (1757-1806), an influential British socialite and famous beauty; Georgiana Darcy, a character in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813).

Georgina ? A simpler form of GEORGIANA, which more or less replaced Georgiana in the early nineteenth century. Dim: GEORGE, Georgie, GINA. Fr: Georgine, Cz: Jirina. Bearers: Georgina "George" Kirrin, one of the main characters in Enid Blytons Famous Five (1942-63).

Geraint e Welsh form of GERONTIUS, borne by one of the Knights of the Round Table in Arthurian Romance. It was made well known by Tennyson in the Idylls of the King, which features the lay of Geraint and Enid. 19th C.

Gerald c Old German name-ger "spear" + vald "rule." The Normans took it to Britain after the Conquest in the late 11th C. Dim: GERRY. It Ga: Gearoid, Port: Geraldo, W: Gerallt, Fr: Geraud, Dut: Gerolt, It: Giraldo. Bearers: Gerald of Wales (c. 1146-c. 1223), a medieval chronicler, who is often known by the Latinized form of his name, Giraldus; Gerald Gardner (1884-1964), the driving force behind making Wicca what it is today; Gerald Durrell (1925-95), the English naturalist and writer; Gerald Massey (1828-1907), the English poet and Egyptologist, noted for his work on Egyptian religion.

Geraldine Y Geraldine was coined by the poet Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey for a poem in which he celebrated Lady Elizabeth FitzGerald (1527-90), the daughter of an Earl of Kildare and wife of the Earl of Lincoln. In Surrey's poem, Geraldine was intended to mean "belonging to the FitzGeralds"-Elizabeth is referred to as "The Fair Geraldine." It was also used by Coleridge in his poem "Christabel" (1816), and most uses of Geraldine post-date this, though examples are found from the late sixteenth century. Var: Geraldina. Dim: GERRY, Gerrie; Geri (mod). Bearers: Geraldine Summerville (b. 1967), the Irish actress; Geraldine "Geri" Halliwell (b. 1972), a former member of the British pop group the Spice Girls.

Gerard e Old German name-ger "spear" + hardu "hard." Gerard was taken to Britain by the Normans. It was popular in the Middle Ages, and was responsible for surnames such as GARRETT. Dim: GERRY. Var: Gerrard. Ger: Gerhard, Gerhardt, Dut: Gerrit, Geert. Fr: Gerard, It, Sp: Gerardo, Hun: GELLERT. Bearers: Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89), the English poet.

Geras cc Greek: geras "old age." The Greek God of old age, revered in a time when old age-and the respect and honor which came with it-was something most hoped for, but did not achieve. 20th C.

Gerasim c~ Russian name. Gr: Gerasimos < gerasmios "honoring" < geras "gift of honor." Borne by a fifth-century saint much venerated in the Orthodox Church.

Gerbert a' Old German name ger "spear" + berht. It was taken to Britain by the Normans, and used long enough to contribute to surnames such as Garbett and Garbutt. The other sources for these were Gerbold (ger + bald "bold") and Gerbodo (ger + bodo "messenger" and "herald"). Revived 19th C.

Gerda Y The wife of Freyr in Norse mythology. ON: Gerðr < geroa "to fence in." The related gero meant "harness," and "gear," and "armor" in the plural. Gerda is also the name of the little girl in Hans Christian Anderson's Snow Queen (1845). Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century.

Gereon e A German saint of Cologne, reputedly a member of the "Theban Legion." Gereon probably derives from Gr: geron "old man." Used in the ESW in the twentieth century. Fr: Gereon.

Gerlinde Y Old German name-ger "spear" + lindi "serpent" or lind "soft" and "tender."

Germaine 2 Feminine form of Germain, itself the French form of GERMAN. It was borne by a sixteenth-century French saint. Bearers: Germaine Greer (b. 1939), the Australian-born feminist, academic, and writer, best known for *The Female Eunuch* (1970).

German c~ Latin: Germanus, which can mean simply "a German," but its original meaning was "brother" or "belonging to a brother or sister." It was also used to mean "true," "genuine," and "real." German was a name borne by more than one saint, and was used in Britain in the medieval period. Var: Germain, Jarman, and Jermyn. Fr: Germain, Sp: German, It, Port: Germano. The Count of St. Germain was a mysterious eighteenth-century figure whose work (and personage) was influential and important in later

'fbeosophy. Who the count really was, no one quite knows; some believe he was (is) the legendary Wandering Jew.

Germander g Y A herb of Mercury, the Germander has been valued for its medicinal properties since ancient times; it was used to treat asthma and coughs in Ancient Greece, and was recommended for headaches by Nicolas Culpeper. It was also used to treat gout. Its scientific name is *Teucrium*, as it is believed that the Greek hero Teucer used the plant at Troy. Medieval Latin: *Germandra* < Gr: *khamaidrus* "ground oal" < *khamai* "on the ground" + *drus* "oak." Late 20th C.

Gerontius c~ Late Roman name, borne by a fifth-century Roman general. It is usually derived from Gr: *geron* "old man," which is etymologically plausible. However, the name is suspiciously strongly linked with the Celtic fringe-particularly Brittany and Wales.'This suggests that its true origin may in fact be Celtic. A number of options present themselves-too many, in fact-but one that particularly stands out is CC: **garano-* "crane." The Dream of Gerontius (1900) is an oratorio by Edward Elgar based on John Henry Newman's poem written a century earlier. 20th C.

Gerren 5\\ Cornish form of GERONTIUS and GERAINT, borne by a sixth-century king and saint. He is probably the Gereint of the early medieval epic poem Y Gododdin. Mid-20th C.

Gerry 5 Y Short form of any of the names beginning with Ger-, in particular GERALD or GERALDINE. Var: JERRY, Gerrie; Geri (mod). In independent use since the nineteenth century.

Gersemi Y A Norse Goddess of beauty. ON: *gorsemi* "costly thing," "jewel," and "treasure." She is one of the daughters of Freya.

Gershom c? Biblical name of disputed meaning. The traditional etymology is "stranger," deriving from Heb: *gar* "to dwell (somewhere as a stranger)"-this is what Moses more or less says when he names his son Gershom. However, it was common in Hebrew naming practice to bestow a name which sounded like a word or sentiment which the parent wished to convey, but might not actually be related, and this seems to be what happened with Gershom.'The name has been thoroughly mangled since; attempts to keep it

close to the biblical tale have also come up with the meaning "exile" from playing with another Hebrew verb *gerash* "to expel" and "to divorce." Given Moses's origins, the name may well in reality not be Hebrew at all. 16th C. Var: Gersham.

Gertrude Y Old German name-ger "spear" + drudi "strength"-the Old German forms were Geredrudis and Geretrudis, and it was a name borne by one of the Val kyrie. There were also two German saints of the name, one seventh-century-the patron saint of both cats and mice the other twelfth/thirteenth. The latter was a mystic, and is known as St. Gertrude the Great. It was taken to England by the Normans, but not much used before the fifteenth century, when the cult of St. Gertrude (the cat and mouse one), spread to Britain from the Low Countries (her shrine is at Nivelles in Brabant). Var: Garthred, Gartrid, Gartrude, Gertrud (hist). Dim: Gatty (hist); Gert, Gertie, Gerry, TRUDY. Bearers: Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932), the British landscape gardener; Gertrude Bell (1868-1926), the archaeologist, traveler and diplomat; Gertrude of Flanders, the queen in the first series of the British television comedy *Blackadder* (1983-89)-who was a Witch; Gertie, Elliot's little sister in the film *E. T.* (1982).

Gervais e A very old name. It is first found in the first century in the form Gervasius as the name of a saint. It is generally treated as OG: ger "spear" + -vassus "servant"-a word which was originally Celtic, but passed into German at an early date (the word vassal derives from it). However, Common Celtic **wasto-/*uasso-* "servant" was a common element in Celtic personal names-other attested examples include Morivassus "servant of the sea" and Riovassus "servant of the king." It seems somewhat strange, therefore, that no one has really investigated the possibility that the name might actually be purely Celtic (Gaulish), as there are known Common Celtic elements which would explain the initial Ger-, such as **garwo-* "rough" and "coarse," **g`uariyf* "duty" and **gfri-* "shout." The last is even found in another attested Gaulish name Garomarus "great shout." Gervais was taken (or returned) to Britain by the Normans. Var: Gerfast, Gervaise, Gervas (hist); Gervase, JARVIS. Bearers: Gervase of Tilbury (c. 1150-c. 1228), the English chronicler; Gervase Markham (c. 1568-1637), the writer and poet.

Gerwyn (' One of the saintly children of Brychan Brycheiniog. The meaning isn't entirely clear; possibly MW: garw "rough" or gawr "shout" + gwyn. Late 19th C.

Geshtinana y A Mesopotamian Goddess of the vine, who plays an important role in the myth of Tammuz and Inanna; she agrees to take her brother Tammuz's place for six months in the Underworld after he himself has died in order to restore Inanna to life. She returns to the world at the Summer Solstice. Sumerian: gestin "vine," "wine," "grape juice," and "bunch of grapes" + an "sky" and "heaven."

Gethin e Originally a Welsh surname. W: cethin "dark" and "dusky." 16th C.

Ghislain c~ French form of L: Gislenus < OG: Gislin < gisal "pledge." It was borne by a seventh-century saint of the town now called Saint-Ghislain. Bearers: Ogier Ghislain de Busbecq (1522-92), the Flemish herbalist and writer. Fem: Ghislaine.

Ghyll c~ Y An English word meaning "ravine" or "deep glen," used of certain places in the North of England such as Gaping Ghyll in Yorkshire, which is a dramatic and atmospheric natural cave. ON: gil "ravine."

Gideon c~ Biblical name, of unclear sense. Heb: gadd "to cut off," "to hew," and "to fell." It is usually interpreted today as meaning "hewer" or "feller," though it may instead be closer to "cut-off" or "hewn"-it was previously interpreted as meaning "having a stump" i.e. for a hand or foot. It may be that the name of any historic figure behind the tale of Gideon had a different name, and it was altered later to hint at cutting, since Gideon cut down his father's Asherah pole and tore down the altar to Baal. 16th C. Bearers: Gideon, an "Elder" in the American television drama Charmed (1998-2006).

Gigi Y Originally, a French pet-form of names such as Virginie (see Virginia) or Georgine (see Georgina). It was made well known outside France by the musical film Gigi (1958), based on Colette's French language novella Gigi (1944), in which Gigi is actually the pet-form of Gilberte, the French equivalent of GILBERTA. Mid-20th C.

Gilbertd~ Old German name gisal "pledge" and "hostage" + berht. Taken to Britain by the Normans. In Scotland, Ireland and on the Isle of Man, it was used to render Gilbride. Dim: Gib (hist); Gil, BERT. Var: Giselbert, Gisilbert, Gylbarde (hist). Dut: Gijsbert, Fr: Gilbert, It, Sp: Gilberto, Ger: Gisbert. Bearers: Gilbert de Clare (c. 1100-1147/48), the powerful medieval baron; Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828), the American artist; G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), the British writer; Gilbert Blythe, a principal character in Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* series (1908-39); Gilbert Norrell, a magician and one of the titular characters in Susanna Clarke's *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* (2004).

Gilberta Y Feminine form of GILBERT, mostly used in Italy. It is also the name of a genus of plants in the wider daisy family. Var: Gilbertine- although this is also an ecclesiastical order founded in the twelfth century by St. Gilbert at Sempringham in Lincolnshire. 17th C. Fr: Gilberte.

Gilbride f Anglicized form of Sc Ga: Gille Brighde "servant of BRIDGET." In the past, it was often rendered in English by Gilbert. Gilbride itself did not survive the Middle Ages, but the surname has been used since the nineteenth century. It was the name of a twelfth-century lord of Galloway. Gille and giolla were common elements in many Scottish and Irish names respectively. Others include GILCHRIST, GILLEBRATH, and Giolla Rua "servent of the red-headed lad," which was Anglicized as Gilroy and Gilderoy, the latter used by the Romani in the nineteenth century, as well as by Rowling in the *Harry Potter* series.

Gilchrist G~ Anglicized form of Sc Ga: Gille Crist meaning "servant of CHRIST." Used in Scotland since at least the twelfth century; examples from the seventeenth century onwards may represent use of the surname deriving from it.

Gildas c~ A sixth-century Brythonic monk and saint known for his *De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae*, an important source for the history of sub-Roman Britain. His name is a Latinized form of a Celtic name, though exactly what isn't known for certain. A likely source is a combination of CC: *k(Elyo- "companion" + *d(Ewo- "(a) God." "There is some debate about whether *k(Elyo- (from which the Irish *ceile* "companion" derives) is the source of the later It Ga: *giolla* and Sc Ga: *gille*, but it is possible. There

is even a medieval Irish name cognate with Gildas-Giolla De-which gave rise to the surname Gildea. 19th C.

Giles Giles first appeared in the ESW in the eleventh century, when it was taken to Britain with the Normans. Late L: Aegidius < Gr: aigidion "kid" < aix "goat." Aegidius became Egidius, and in Medieval French this became Gide then Gile, before finally metamorphosing into Giles. In the Middle Ages, it was also used as a girl's name, which appears in Latin records as EGIDIA and Gilia. Var: Gyles. Fr: Gilles. Bearers: Giles Corey (c. 1611-92), one of the victims of the Salem Witch trials. Because he refused to enter a plea, he was subjected to the torture of peine forte et dure-i.e. crushed to death. Accused people would sometimes take this step because it ensured their property could not be confiscated by the State and therefore could still pass to their heirs.

Gilfaethwy c~ A Welsh God, one of the Plant Don"Children of Don." He fell in love with Goewin, in whose lap Math had to keep his feet most of the time or die, and he and his brother Gwydion contrived to get Math out of the way, so that Gilfaethwy could spend the night with Goewin. Math was, naturally, pretty livid when he found out, and turned Gilfaethwy and Gwydion first into a stag and a doe for a year, then into a wild boar and a sow and lastly into a wolf and she-wolf The origin of the name Gilfaethwy is disputed. The first element might be CC: *k(Elyo- "companion." This would make him the "companion of Maethwy"-and *Maethwy might well represent a variant of MATH. Gilfaethwy features in Evangeline Walton's The Virgin and the Swine (1936), later retitled The Island of the Mighty.

Gilgamesh c~ The name of a legendary Sumerian king of Uruk, who is the hero of The Epic of Gilgamesh, which tells of his quest for eternal life. His name occurs as Gisbilgames in the Sumerian king lists and is found in numerous other forms in ancient texts. Its most likely meaning is "may the (mature) man become a young man again." Sumerian: gis "penis" and "(mature) man" + bil "sprouts" and "rises" + ga "may" + mes "young man," "prince," and "son." Mid-20th C.

Gillebhrath c Old Scots Gaelic name borne by the founder of Clan MacGillivray. Sc Ga: gille "servant" + broth "judgment" and "destruction."

It may have been a byname, rather than a given name, and did not survive, except in the clan name.

Gillian ? Medieval variant form of JULIAN, the girl's name. Like many of the most popular names of the medieval period, it fell out of favor after the Reformation. Although it continued in country use, it wasn't until the twentieth century that it was properly revived again. Var: Jillian. Dim: Gill, JILL, Gilly, Gillie, filly, Gillot, fillet (hist). Bearers: Gillian Boardman, a major character in Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* (1961).

Gina Y Originally a pet-name for names ending in -gina, principally GEORGINA, but also REGINA. In Italy, it is often used as a short-form of Luigina (see Louisa). In Modern Hebrew, gina means "garden." Used independently since the nineteenth century.

Gineli Y C' Cherokee: gineli "friend."

Ginevra Y Italian form of GUINEVERE. It has been used in Italy since at least the fifteenth century. It is also the Italian name for GENEVA and for Lake Geneva (Lago di Ginevra). Ginevra has been in use in the ESW since the nineteenth century. The name features in Handel's opera *Ariodante* (1735) and a couple of minor nineteenth-century operas too: Mayr's *Ginevra di Scozia* (1801) and Halevy's *Guido et Ginevra* (1838). Bearers: Ginevra "Ginn' Weasley, a Witch in the Harry Potter books.

Ginger '2 Late Latin: *gingiber* < *zingiber* < Gr: *ziggiberis* < San: *srn'ga* "horn" + *vera* "body," referring to the shape of the root, or from Malayam *inchi-ver inchi* "root." The above demonstrates how ancient the use of ginger has been, even in Europe, although until relatively recent times it was only known in dried and powdered form. It has long been prized for its medicinal properties; in Culpeper's day it was used to aid digestion, "clear the sight," treat gout, and "expel wind." It is still used today to aid digestion and stimulate and warm the system, being particularly good at relieving nausea. Ruled by Mars and the element Fire, it can be eaten prior to casting spells to increase potency, especially in love spells. Ginger is also used to attract wealth. As a name, Ginger was first used as a nickname for someone with ginger-colored hair, and this remains its principal usage. This is also

the source of the surname. 17th C. Bearers: Virginia "Ginger" Rogers (1911-95), the American actress and dancer.

Ginny 2 Ginny is usually considered to have originated as a pet-form of VIRGINIA. While this is certainly true for the spelling, the name is actually older; representing the usual pronunciation of JENNY in past centuries. Bearers: Ginny Weasley, a character in the Harry Potter books- where it is used as a short-form of GINEVRA.

Gioconda Y Italian: giocondo "merry" and "jolly." La Gioconda is also the name by which Leonardo da Vinci's famous Mona Lisa (c. 1503) is known in Italian, deriving not from her expression but from her surname-del Giocondo-or rather, her husband's surname; she was Lisa Gherardini. It is probably the painting which has inspired the adoption of Gioconda as a given name. 19th C.

Gisela y Old German name-gisal "pledge" and "hostage." The name of a sister of Charlemagne in the eighth century; another bearer was Gisela of Swabia (c. 900-1043), a Holy Roman Empress. The name wasn't used in Britain in the Middle Ages, and is first encountered in the ESW only in the late eighteenth century. Var: Giselle. Fr: Gisele, Hun: Gizella.

Gita 2 Indian name. San: gita "song." The Bhagavad Gita-"divine song"-forms part of the important Sanskrit epic the Mahabharata.

Githa Y Old Norse name, originating as a short form of names beginning with gad "a God"-in particular Guðr (gm) + friðr "beauty". It was borne by the mother of King Harold II Godwinson. It did not survive the Middle Ages, but was revived in the nineteenth century. Var: Gytha.

Giubiana 2 A legendary Italian Witch, an effigy of whom is burnt on the last Thursday in January during festivities called "La Giubiana," which are held in the North-Western Italian regions of Lombardy and Piedmont. It is possible that her name is simply a corruption of Giovanna, the Italian form of JOANNA. More likely, however, is that it derives from JOVE, essentially carrying the meaning "belonging to Jove." Whether the God Jupiter was intended by this, or the Christian Yahweh, is difficult to say; it largely depends on the name's age, and whether it arose in medieval times

or dates back to the Roman period. In Classical Latin, Giubiana would have been Joviana, which is actually encountered in various European languages in the twentieth century-again, however, this is probably related to Joanna. The name of the Witch varies from town to town. Var: Gibiana, Giobbiana, Giobia, Giobbia, Giubbiana, and Zobiana.

Gizem 2 Turkish name-gizem "mystery."

Glade Y c~ English surname. OE: glued "clear, open space in a forest"-a word redolent of deep forests, full of forest noises and forest smells, and dappled dells where the greens glow in the sunlight, and fairies frolic by the light of moon. Sadly, it is also a brand of air-freshener. Late 17th C.

Gladys Y Anglicized form of Old Welsh Gwladys. The traditional etymology is that it evolved from L: CLAUDIA. Certainly, some Welsh names do come from Latin, evidence of Rome's influence in the Roman period, and Claudia was a common name in Roman times. It is also the sort of name likely to have been borne by quite well-to-do Romano-British women, as early bearers of citizenship were those chieftains and nobles who aided the invasion of the Emperor Claudius in 43 CE and took the name CLAUDIUS as part of their Roman names-the badge of citizenship. Many believe, however, that the name has a Celtic origin, MW: gwlad "country." Another, generally overlooked possibility, is the OW: guled "feast" and "banquet"; Ulidorix "king of feasts" is a Gaulish personal name known in the Roman period. Gladys just about survived until the nineteenth century, when it was revived and taken up enthusiastically across the ESW, probably as a result of its appearance in Ouida's novel Puck (1870), and other works of fiction of the period. Bearers: Gwladus Ddu (d. 1251) "Gladys the Black" (referring to her hair), the daughter of Llywelyn the Great, Prince of Wales; Gladys Cooper (1888-1971), an English actress; Gladys Bustamante (1912-2009), a Jamaican women's and worker's activist; Gladys Kravitz, a character in the American television sitcom Bewitched (1964-72).

Glaisne d' Traditional Irish Gaelic name-glas "green" and "grey." Glaisne was the name of a son of Conchobhar mac Nessa and Queen Medb of Connacht. In later, historic, usage, it was rendered in English as Gelasius and James.

Glance Y Greek: glaukos "gleaming," "bluish-green," and "grey"-used of olives, grapes, topaz, beryl-and eyes. A frequent epithet of Athena in Homer is glaukopis "grey-eyed" or "with gleaming eyes." Glance features more than once in Greek myth. One Glance was the second wife of Jason-she was murdered hideously by a flesh-burning robe sent to her as a "gift" by Jason's snubbed first wife-Medea. Another Glance was a Nereid. 20th C.

Glebe Russian name. ON: Gudleifr-guy "(a) God" and leifr "heir."The eleventh-century St. Gleb is one of the earliest native Slavic saints, said to have been a son of the first Christian Grand Prince of Kiev.

Glen c~ Y Glen's first use as a given name-which dates from the seventeenth century-is as a transferred use of the surname.'This derived from places called Glen as well as being bestowed on those who lived in a glen-i.e. a valley.'The word, originally Celtic and much associated with the Scottish glens, passed into English at an early date and has been much used in English too, albeit mostly in a poetic context. Var: Glenn. W: GLYN. Bearers: (Alton) Glenn Miller (1904-44), the American jazz musician; Glenn Close (b. 1947), the American actress.

Glenda 2 Contrary to popular opinion, Glenda did not originate in Wales. Nor did it see much use in Wales prior to the twentieth century. Indeed, of the forty or so definite Glendas registered in England and Wales before 1915, only two were Welsh, and both of these were early twentieth-century, rather than nineteenth. Most of those who received the name in the latter part of the nineteenth century were born in England or America.'The name was probably coined as a feminine form of GLEN with the addition of the suffix -da filched from LINDA, etc. Alternatively, it may have been conceived as an actual blend of Glen and Linda. In the 1880s and '90s, Glenn and Glenna both featured in the top thousand names for girls in America (before Glenda appeared), so this isn't such a bizarre notion.'The derivation from W: glan "clean" and da "good" is one which has developed with hindsight. If this were truly the case, Glenda ought to have appeared first and in Wales-but the earliest attested example of this is in 1913 and in North Carolina. Indeed the only genuinely Welsh thing about the name is that it may have been inspired by GWENDA. Var: Glynda, Glinda-the

name of the "Good Witch of the South" in Wizard of Oz. Dim: Glennie. Bearers: Glenda Farrell (1904-71), the American actress; Glenda Jackson (b. 1936), the British actress and politician.

Glenys 2 Glenys appeared at the very end of the nineteenth century, along with Glenis. Glennis, Glynis, and Glynys followed close behind in the early twentieth century. Most early examples are found in Wales, and the name probably arose as a feminine form of GLYN, with the addition of the suffix -ys borrowed from other Welsh girls' names, most notably GLADYS. Indeed, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that the name was originally conceived as a blend of Glyn and Gladys. As with GLENDA, attempts to derive it from glan "clean" are retrospective; the name is a modern creation, and if glan had been intended, the name would have been Glanys-at least when first used. Glanys is found, but not before 1916-and in Kentucky. Dim: Glennie. Bearers: Glenys Kinnock (b. 1944), a British politician; Glennie Kindred (b. 1949), the British Pagan author and artist.

Glesni y Welsh: glesni "blueness" and "verdure." Early 20th C.

Glod Y In Norse mythology, Glod is the wife of Halogi (also known as Logi), king of Halogaland. ON: gloo "red hot embers," glaor "glad" or gleoi "gladness." Given the fact Logi's name means "blaze" and they have daughters whose names both mean "embers," gloo seems the most likely.

Gloria y Latin: gloria "glory," "fame," "praise," and "honor." Examples occur from the seventeenth century-along with one or two instances of the English Glory-but most use has been from the late nineteenth. Bearers: Gloria Gaynor (b. 1949), the American singer; Gloria Estefan (b. 1957), the Cuban-American singer; Gloria Clandon, a character in George Bernard Shaw's play You Never Can Tell (1897).

Gloriana ? A name coined by Elizabethan poets as a poetic name for Queen Elizabeth I, in particular Edmund Spenser in The Faerie Queene. Gloriana (1953) is an opera by Benjamin Britten. 16th C. The Romani girl's name Glorina is probably a variant.

Glycera ? Greek: glukeros "sweet." For some reason, it was borne by a number of famous courtesans in the ancient world. Late 19th C.

Glyn c? Welsh cognate of GLEN; both derive from CC: *glendos "valley" or "shore." The Modern Irish cognate is gleann. The surname Glyn derives from the village of Glynn in Cornwall, but some instances probably arose simply from glyn used as a noun. It is the surname which is responsible for the first appearance of Glyn as a given name in the seventeenth century. Until the nineteenth century, it wasn't particular to Wales, but since the late nineteenth century, it has become regarded as a Welsh name. Bearers: Glyn Daniel (1914-86), a British archaeologist and novelist.

Gobhan e Traditional Irish name. St. Gobhan was a seventh-century saint; there is also a different seventh-century St. Goban, and a further St. Goban of sixth-century date, who is also known as Goibhenn. Jr Ga: gobha "smith" or gob "beak" and "bill" + dim. suffix -an. One of the saints-if not all three-may represent a Christianization of the God Goibniu. In Modern Irish, gobdn means "(baby's) pacifier" or "dummy," and can also mean "gag." Sc Ga: goban means "young seagull." See also Gofannon and Govan.

Gobnait 2 Irish name; essentially the feminine of GOBHAN. It Ga: gob "beat" or gobha "smith" + fem. dim. suffix -nait. It used to be rendered into English with ABIGAIL. St. Gobnait is reputed to have lived in the sixth century.

God c~ ? Although the pronunciation of the English word "god" has been modified over the centuries, it remains identical in appearance to its Old English form. Its use goes back to pre-Christian times, when its meaning was more "divine will," "Godhead," and "divinity" rather than "(a) God." Its ultimate source is almost certainly one of two PIE roots meaning either "to invoke" or "to offer sacrifice." Its resemblance to the biblical Gad is purely coincidental-the two are etymologically unrelated. OE: god featured as a name element in many names, and the short forms Goda c? and Gode Y developed from them, from which surnames such as Good arose. God itself is found as a given name from the sixteenth century, usually in combinations, such as the famous Praise-God Barebones (1598-1679). In more recent times, it is found combined with words such as Glory, Infinite, and Supreme-but on its own sometimes too.

Godbert c Old German: got "(a) God" + berht "bright." Godbert was taken to England by the Normans in the eleventh century, although there is some evidence to suggest there was a cognate Old English name too. It survived long enough to give rise to the surname Godbert, which returned to first name use in the nineteenth century.

Goddard c Old German: Gotahard got "(a) God" + hardu "hard." Introduced by the Normans, it was modestly popular in the medieval period as Godard. Goddard, a surname derived from it, has been used since the eighteenth century.

Godfrey c Old German: Godafrið got "(a) God" + friðu "peace," cognate with Old English Godfrith. Godfrey's popularity in the Middle Ages was down to the Germanic name, which was popular with the Normans, but was mixed up with GEOFFREY from early on. Var: Godefry, Godfry, Godefray (hist). Sc Ga: Goraidh, Ger: Gottfried. Bearers: Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723), the Anglo-Dutch artist; Charles Godfrey Leland (1824-1903), the American folklorist; Godfrey Higgins (1772-1833), an English antiquarian and Druid.

Godiva ? Latinized form of Old English Godgifu-god "(a) God" + gifu "gift." It was a popular name in Saxon times, most famously borne by Lady Godiva (fl. 1040-bef. 1086), the wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, who, according to the legend, rode naked through Coventry in Warwickshire as a protest against her husband's taxations. It is speculated that the tale might actually represent a myth surrounding a Mercian Earth Goddess, who may also survive in Shropshire folklore as Lady Godda, the fairy wife of Wild Edric. Godiva is found as a given name again in the nineteenth century. Var: Godeva, Godefie (hist).

Godric c Old English: god "(a) God" + ric. It was so common at the time of the Norman Conquest that it was used as a generic term for an Englishman, in a similar way to the use of "Tommy" during the First and Second World Wars. It gave rise to a number of surnames, such as Goodrich and Goodridge. Var: Godrich, Godrick (hist). Goderick is a surname derived from Godric, which is found in given-name use from the nineteenth century. Bearers: Godric Gryffindor, legendary founder of Gryffindor House in the Harry Potter books.

Godwin cc Old English: god "(a) God" + wine "friend," popular at the time of the Norman Conquest. It continued to see a fair amount of use during the Middle Ages, and was the source of surnames such as Godwin and Goodwin, which themselves were used as given names from the seventeenth century. Some use from the nineteenth may represent a resurrection of the Old English personal name. Bearers: Godwin, Earl of Wessex (d. 1053), the father of the last Saxon king of England, King Harold II.

Gofannon c~ The Welsh smith God. It is he who forges the cauldron in which Ceridwen undertakes to brew the Awen. He is one of the Plant Don-the Children of Don and his name is cognate with the Irish Goibniu. In the early fourteenth-century *Polistoire del Eglise de Christ de Caunterbyre*, there is a character called Gaban who forges Sir Gawain's sword. He almost certainly represents a late survival Gofannon in legend and folklore. Another possible survival is in the figure of the obscure sixth-century Welsh saint Gofan-known as Govan in English (although in one legend, he is actually identified with Sir Gawain). CC: *goban- "smith." Late 20th C.

Goker c A Turkish name-gok "sky" + er "man."

Gold c~ Y Gold has been prized for thousands of years for its rich color and shine, and the ease with which it can be fashioned into objects. While silver is considered the metal of the moon, gold is the metal of the sun. Its rarity has meant it has always been the preserve of the nobility and royalty, and items of gold have been used to designate status in many cultures, from the torques of Celtic chiefs, to the death masks of Egyptian pharaohs. Its association with the sun goes back to ancient times. PIE: *ghel- "yellow" or "green"-gold is cognate with "gall." The surname Gold derives from the noun, and was probably used of someone who was golden-haired. 18th C. Var: Golde.

Golda y Yiddish name. Ger: gold "gold." Bearers: Golda Meir (1898-1978), the Russian-born Israeli Prime Minister.

Goldberry y The wife of Tom Bombadil in *The Lord of the Rings*. Goldberry is also a rare surname, arising as a variant of the surname

Goldburgh, derived from the Old English girl's name Goldburg-gold "gold" + burb "fortress." 20th C.

Golden Y a' English surname. OE: gylden "golden" applied to someone with golden hair. The adjective derives from the same source. 17th C.

Goldfinch Y The goldfinch is probably the most colorful bird of the British Isles. It was called the thistle tuig by the Anglo-Saxons, and is still sometimes called the Thistle Finch. In the past they were often taken from the wild as pets, seriously affecting the numbers of the wild birds by the end of the nineteenth century. The bird was popularly associated with wealth; partly no doubt because of its name-which even became a slang term in the 1700s for guineas (gold coins) and partly because the birds were considered so "finely dressed." The technical term for a flock of goldfinches is "a charm," taken from its old sense of a "magical chant" because of their habit of chattering away so musically together. The word was used as a nickname in the Middle Ages, giving rise to a surname. 19th C.

Goldie 2 cc Goldie was first used as a nickname for someone with golden hair, but was taken up as a genuine given name in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Goldie Hawn (b. 1945), the American actress.

Goldilocks Y The fairy-tale character, whose name is self-explanatory. Unlike many of the best-known fairy-tales, which come either from French or German sources, Goldilocks was first recorded in English by poet Robert Southey in 1837. The original tale was quite different to the one usually told today; instead of the pretty, golden-haired Goldilocks, Southey's protagonist is a rather revolting old woman. She was transformed into a little girl only in a later retelling. The name Goldilocks dates to 1904; earlier names for the character include Little Golden-Hair, Silver-Hair, and SilverLocks. 21st C.

Goldwin a' Old English name-gold "gold" + wine "friend." It survived the Norman Conquest long enough to produce a surname. 17th C.

Goleuddydd Y Old Welsh name-golau "light" + dydd "day." It is the name of the mother of Culhwch, and a daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog.

Goliath The old adage that history is written by the victors never rang truer than in the case of Goliath. The writers of the Bible ensured that the legendary champion of the Philistines, reputedly defeated by a puny David with a slingshot, went down in history as an intellectually challenged giant of his size even calling into question his humanity. Later Jewish and Christian literature unimaginatively made him a symbol of Paganism and "the Devil" respectively, who—predictably in their theologies—is defeated by their God. The name's origin is not clear; it is sometimes said to mean "uncovered" in Hebrew, although a connection with Akkadian *gilittu* "fright" and "terror" would seem to fit the tale better. There is a vague possibility that it may not be Semitic, but the simple fact of the matter is there isn't really enough evidence. Attempts by some to link it with *alwt* found on ninth-century pot shards in Goliath's reputed home-city of Gath, or with a Lydian name *Alyattes*—are stretched, and generally dismissed by modern scholars. 18th C. The Greek *Golias* occurs as a Roman name.

Gomer a 2 A name deriving from an uncommon Hebrew verb meaning "to complete"; Gomer is therefore usually said to mean "completion." It is borne by a couple of minor biblical characters, one male and the other female. 16th C.

Gometra Y A Scottish island. Anglicized form of the Gaelic *Gomastra* < ON: *godr* "good" and "morally commendable" + *maor* "follower," "helper," or "human" + *ey* "island."

Gondlir a' A byname of Odin. ON: *gandr* "magic-staff," carrying a meaning along the lines of "he who wields the magic-staff."

Gonxhe 2 Albanian name: *gonxhe* "bud"—i.e. of a flower. Var: *Gonxha*. Bearers: Agnes *Gonxha Bojaxhiu* (1910-97), better known as Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Gonzalo C? Spanish name of Visigothic origin. The Medieval Latin form was *Gundisalvus*; demonstrating clearly that the first element is OG: *gundi* "war." The second element is much less certain. It is unlikely, but not impossible, that it is related to L: *salvus* "saved," "preserved," "unhurt," etc. It may be connected with the Gothic *saiwala* "soul." Used in the ESW from the nineteenth century. Dim: *Gonzo*.

Goodeth Y Old English: Godgyth (Godgy\$)-god "a God" + gyd "war." In the Middle Ages it was much confused with GODIVA. Goodeth is the form in which the name survived right up until the early twentieth century. Var: Goditha, Godith.

Goran e Serbo-Croatian: gbra "mountain." Goran is used across the former Yugoslavia.

Gordian e Latin: Gordianus "of Gordium." "The name of three Roman emperors-father, son, and grandson-in the Year of the Six Emperors (238 CE); Gordian III managed to remain emperor until 244, when he died (possibly murdered) at the age of 19. The name derives from the city of Gordium in Phrygia, Asia Minor, famous for the "Gordian Knot." It was said to have been tied by King Gordias (also known as Gordius), the legendary founder and first king of Gordium. Legend said that whoever unraveled it would rule all of Asia; Alexander the Great undid it by slicing it in half with his sword. The meaning of Gordias is unknown, but many historic kings of Gordium bore the name. 17th C.

Gordon Scottish surname, from Gordon in Berwickshire. Attempts are often made to derive this from the Gaelic, but given its location, it could just as easily have an English etymology; in fact, this is more likely, as Gaelic interpretations are pretty contrived, quite frankly, and it falls far more easily into an English one: either OE: gor "dirty" or gara "triangular plot of land" + dun "hill" or possibly denu "valley" "The Gor- may also have stood for the personal name Gara, a hypocoristic form of a name containing the element gar "spear." It is found as a given name from the sixteenth century, but it was General Charles Gordon (1833-85), often referred to as "Gordon of Khartoum," who is largely responsible for the name passing into general use at the end of the nineteenth century. The year of his death, it almost quadrupled in use from the previous year. Bearers: (Vere) Gordon Childe (1892-1957), the Australian archaeologist; Flash Gordon (1934-), the comic-strip hero.

Gore cc English surname. OE: gara "triangular plot of land" < gar "spear." 17th C. Bearers: Gore Vidal (b.1925), the American writer.

Gorlois c~ In the Arthurian Romances, Gorlois, Duke of Cornwall is the name of Igraine's first husband-to whom she is still married when Arthur is conceived by Uther; Igraine was deceived into believing Uther was Gorlois, as Merlin had transformed him. The etymology is not entirely clear, but the best option is a derivation from either MW: gawr "shout" or gwr "man" + llais "voice" or llys "court" and "hall." He features in Mary Stewart's The Crystal Cave series (1970-95). W: Gwrlais.

Gormelia Y Latinized form of Gormal, a traditional Scots Gaelic name-gorm "blue" and "green." Var: Gormail, Gormel, Gormyle. In the nineteenth century, Gormelia and its Latinate variants Gormilia and Gormula became the usual forms. Dim: MILLIE. Bearers: Gormyle Grant, a woman accused of Witchcraft in 1662, who was tortured while in custody.

Gormlaith Y Traditional Irish Gaelic name-gorm "blue" and "green" +Jlaith "sovereignty" and "ruler." Anglicized as Gormley and Gormeley, it survived into the seventeenth century. Bearers: Gormlaith ingen Murchada (c. 960-1030), the third wife of Brian Boru, High King of Ireland.

Goro c Japanese name-go "five"+ r o "son"-i.e. "fifth son."

Gorse c~ ? The prickly evergreen shrub, often found on heathland. It is the Onn of the Ogham and the tree of the Spring Equinox, when it is covered in scented yellow flowers-as it is much of the rest of the year. In the days of the Celts, however, before the introduction of other early flowering trees and flowers, the gorse alone was in bloom. It is strongly associated with the sun and symbolizes hope and constancy. OE: gorst. 19th C.

Gorr c' Y The Ogham name of the ivy, which presides over the eleventh month of the Tree Calendar, from September 30 until October 27. 01: gort "ivy-tree"; gort also means "standing corn," "field," and "famine."

Goshawk c~ Y The name of a type of hawk. OE: gos "goose" + hafoc "hawk." It is a large and ferocious bird of prey; its name has nothing to do with it resembling a goose but was bestowed because it will sometimes carry geese off. Goshawk is traditionally the name used of the female, with tiercel reserved for the male. A surname derives from it, and it is probably

this which is found in use in the nineteenth century, mostly as a middle name, such as a delightfully named Starletta Goshawk Hind, born in 1895.

Gospatric c A name of Brythonic origin found in the North of England and in Scotland, combining OW: *guas* "servant" (or its equivalent in the Brythonic language which survived in "The Old North") + **PATRICK**, thus meaning "servant of St. Patrick." Bearers: Gospatric, Earl of Northumbria (fl. 1067-72).

Gossamer Y The name given to the fine threads of spider silk which can be seen floating in the air on balmy days, often in the fall. It is also used of any extremely fine fabric. OE: *gos* "goose" + *sumor* "summer," though why it acquired such a name is something which has puzzled etymologists. It may be that the goose is standing for "downy," or to the fact that it is a phenomenon most seen at that time of year when geese are said to be in season.

Gowan e A river in Cumbria, which may get its name from **GOFANNON**. Gowan is also the Anglicized form of the Gaelic surname *Mac an Gobhainn* "son of the smith." It may have been adopted as a given name as early as the sixteenth century, but it is difficult to pin down, as there is considerable overlap-and ensuing confusion-with **GAWAIN** and **GAVIN**. Var: Gowen.

Grace 2 French: *grace* < L: **GRATIA**. Grace may have been in use as a given name in the Middle Ages in the form **GRACIA**. As Grace, however, it was bestowed first by the Puritans in the sixteenth century, very much with the Christian take on the name in mind. This is still the case among some of those who use it today-but not all, by any means, and probably not the majority. For them, the name's old associations of the mythical (Pagan) Graces, and overtones of charm, elegance, and finesse are probably much higher on the tick list. Dim: Gracie. Bearers: Grace Sherwood (1660-1740), the "Witch of Pungo," against whom accusations of Witchcraft began in 1698. She was found guilty by ducking in 1706 and imprisoned for several years; Grace Darling (1815-42), the English heroine; Gracie Fields (1898-1979), the British actress and singer; Grace Kelly, (1929-82), the Princess Grace of Monaco.

Gracia Y Now regarded as the Spanish form of GRACE, Gracia was actually used in Britain in the Middle Ages, along with the very similar Grecia and Gricia. These may have been examples of the adoption of L: GRATIA, but may equally represent a Latinized form of a Germanic name, possibly one deriving from gri ja "grey"; it may even have arisen as a short form of GRISELDA. Modern usage, however, is almost certainly simply an adoption of the Spanish. Var: Graciela (dim).

Gracilla Y Elaboration of GRACE + dim. suffix -ilia, inspired by names such as Priscilla. It may also have been influenced by Portuguese Gracilia. This, however, has a different origin, deriving from L: gracilis "slender"; in Portuguese grcil means "delicate." 19th C.

Grady c\ Anglicization of the Gaelic surname O Gradaigh "descendant of Gradach"; Gradach is a byname rather than a real personal name. It is often said to mean "illustrious" or "noble." However, this is deriving it from the Modern Irish gradam "prestige" and "distinction"; it is in fact rather more likely to come from Sc Ga: grada "ugly." 19th C.

Graham c~ Regarded as a Scottish surname, Graham actually originated from Grantham in Lincolnshire, England. The second element of Grantham is OE: ham "homestead," "village," "manor," and "estate.." The first may be the Old English personal name Grante (see Grant) or *grand "gravel." Var: Graeme. Late 16th C. Bearers: Graham Greene (1904- 91), the English novelist and playwright; Graeme Garden (b. 1943), the Scottish comedian and writer.

Grail Y c~ The Grail has been a source of fascination for almost a thousand years, with speculation on its true meaning still a potent topic today. It is now deeply embedded in Christian tradition, but evidence does suggest that the inspiration for the Grail lies in Celtic myth, and is in fact that most Pagan of objects-a cauldron; a cauldron of inspiration, a cauldron of rebirth. OF: graal "cup" < Late L: gradalis of the same meaning. Late 20th C.

Grainne Y Old Irish name, which features in both myth and history. The mythical Grainne was betrothed to elderly Finn McCool, but she was in love with the Fenian Diarmuid. Grainne and Diarmuid eloped, and Finn

pursued them, but-unlike in the similar tale of Deirdre-Finn eventually forgave them and they lived (relatively) happily ever after. The etymology of Grainne is not certain, but it is probably 01: grdn "grain" ; in Scots Gaelic grdinne still means "grain," specifically, a single grain. Another option is 01: grain "sun," perhaps making the name cognate with GRONW. By the seventeenth century, Grainne was being rendered by Grace. Revived 19th C. Var: Grania, Granya; Granie, Grany, Granny (hist). Bearers: Grainne (Grace) O'Malley (c. 1530c. 1603), an Irish folk-heroine, an aristocrat turned pirate, who met with Queen Elizabeth I in 1593.

Granite a' Italian: granite "grained" < grano "grain." It was first used in English in the seventeenth century as the name for the hard, durable crystalline rock containing quartz, feldspar and mica. It has become symbolic of steadfastness and durability. 19th C.

Grant cc Most familiar as the name of a Scottish clan, though many Grants have nothing to do with the clan-or even Scotland. Some bearers, indeed, are likely to descend from individuals who bore the personal name Grante or Grente-Latinized as Granta.'This is probably of Old English origin, possibly from OE: grdnian "to groan," "to lament," and "to murmur," or grennian "to grin" and "to gnash the teeth." Generally the surname Grant derives from OF: grand and grant "great" and "big." 16th C. In America in the nineteenth century, it was often bestowed in honor of President Ulysses S. Grant (1822-85).

Granville Gc English surname, from Granville in Normandy. Fr: grand "big" + ville. Very similar is Grenville from the town of Grainville-la-Teinturiere-but the meaning would appear to be the same, and there seems to have been much mixing up of the two names over the centuries. 16th C. Bearers, Granville Arkwright, main character in the British sitcom Open All Hours (1976-95).

Gratia Y Latin: gratia "favor," "esteem," "regard," "love," and "friendship." Later, in the Christian period, it acquired the additional woolly Christian notion of "divine grace."The Gratiae are the Graces-the Roman equivalent of the Greek Charites-Goddesses of beauty and charm, generally considered to be three in number. 17th C, although many early examples

may be using Gratia for GRACE if the record is in Latin, rather than Gratia in its own right.

Gratian c~ English form of Latin Gratianus "belonging to Gratus," Gratus being a Roman name which probably derived from GRATIA. There is a third-century saint of the name. 17th C. Fr: Gratien. Bearers: Gratian (359-83 CE), Emperor of Rome from 375 CE until his death.

Gratiana 2 Feminine form of GRATIAN. A character called Gratiana featured in James Shirley's play The Wedding (c.1626). 17th C.

Grauni 2 Romani: grauni "gem."

Gray c~ Y Gray is often treated as the poor relation in the pantheon of color, dismissed because it blends so readily into the background; neutral and formal at best, dull and dingy at worst. But gray is the color of rolling mists, of stormy skies and raging seas, of silent standing stones. Gray is the color of age-and therefore of wisdom and experience. As a mixture of the two extremes of black and white, it signifies balance but also ambiguity; gray is the color of mystery and secrets. The surname is a direct adoption of the adjective and was probably used simply to refer to gray hair. Unlike today, in an age obsessed with continuing to look as young as possible well into old age, signs of age in the past actually brought respect; living long enough to have grey hair was actually quite unusual. 16th C. Var: Grey, Graye.

Grayson c~ English surname-"son of the reeve" or "son of the steward" < ME: greyve < ON: grei "steward." 18th C.

Grazia 2 Italian equivalent of GRACE. It also means "pardon," while in the plural-grazie-it means "thank you." Dim: Graziella.

Green c~ 2 Green is the color of growing things, so symbolic of life itself, and of the Earth from which all life springs. Thus it is the symbolic color of the Earth, and strongly associated with Nature. Green is the color of the elves and other spirits of Nature-and sometimes they don't take kindly to mortals using their color, which is one reason, perhaps, why green has sometimes been regarded as bad luck. Most of all, it is the color of the

Green Man, God of the woods and trees, the Oak King-and the Holly-Herne, Cernunnos, and Pan. Every year, when winter is spent, the green returns-thus, it is also symbolic of rebirth and fertility, but also of youth and inexperience. Conversely, it is also the color of decay and sickness, from which stems its association with envy. In the Arab world, where greenery is a rare thing, green has become the symbol of the Divine, and is the color of Islam.'The surname Green is very common, and arose largely as a name for someone who lived next to a village green. Sometimes it was used of someone who was young and immature and there is evidence that it was used in the surname period as a personal name, probably with the same idea of youthfulness. 16th C.

Greenfinch Y e A member of the finch family, the greenfinch is a courageous and cheerful little bird with a chirpy song and distinctive green color-so distinctive that its scientific name was once *Chloris chloris chloris* "green green green."

Gregory c~ English form of Latin *Gregorius* < Gr: *Gregorios* < *gregoreo* "to be fully awake" and "to watch." A late-probably Christian-development, not found before the fourth century. Most bearers before the eleventh century were churchmen, including a number of Catholic popes and Orthodox patriarchs. More than one became a saint, including Pope Gregory I-of chant fame. Gregory gave rise to a number of surnames, some of which are now used as given names, such as Greer and Grieg. Dim: Greg. Var: Gregor (Sc). Hun: Gergely, Gergo, Jr Ga: Greagoir, Dan, Nor: Gregers, Fr: Gregoire, It, Sp: Gregorio, Sc Ga: Griogair, Griogal, W: Grigor, Rom: Grigore, Ru: Grigoriy, Pol: Grzegorz, Arm: Krikor, Cz: Rehor; Fin: Reijo. Bearers: Gregory Peck (1916-2003), the American actor; Gregory "Greg" Rusedski (b. 1973), the Canadian-British tennis player; Gregory Goyle, a (bad) wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Greta Y German and Swedish pet-form of MARGARET, which came into use in the ESW in the late 19th C. Den, Get, Nor: Grete. Bearers: Greta Garbo (1905-90), the Swedish actress.

Gretchen Y German pet-form of MARGARET. It featured in Goethe's *Faust* (1808, 1832), which introduced it to the ESW. Gretchen (1879) was a

version of Faust written in blank verse by W. S. Gilbert-best known for the comic operas he wrote in collaboration with Arthur Sullivan.

Gretel Y German pet-form of MARGARET. It is wellknown as the name of the little girl in the fairy-tale "Hansel and Gretel," recorded by the Brothers Grimm in the nineteenth century, and has been used in the ESW since the end of that century. It features the classic fairy-tale wicked Witch, who plans to fatten up the children to eat. Hansel and Gretel aren't exactly little angels, however-they start off by eating the Witch's house (giving her a right to be cross, although eating them as a punishment was possibly a bit harsh), and then roasting her alive in her own oven. Nice kids.

Greville c~ English surname, from Greville in La Manche, Normandy. Creiz (a pre-seventh-century personal name) + ville. Creiz looks suspiciously like the Middle Breton: kreiz "center" and "heart" < CC: *kred- "heart." 17th C.

Grian ? An Irish Goddess of the sun. Jr Ga: grian "sun." She is sometimes linked with Aine, and it is possible that the two were a dual sun Goddess, presiding over the two halves of the year. In County Limerick, not far from the hill named after Aine, is a hill called Cnoc Greine, which hints quite strongly at the two Goddesses sharing some associations.

Griffin c~ 'The name of a mythical beast much used in heraldry, which was believed to be a cross between a lion and an eagle. It is depicted as having the head and wings of an eagle, but the body of a lion. Symbolically it stands for powerunsurprising, being the offspring of the king of the birds and the king of the beasts. It also symbolizes wisdom and fortitude. OF: grif n < L: gryphus < Gr: gryps "griffin" < grupos "hook-nosed" or "with an aquiline nose." Griffin is found as a given name from as early as the eleventh century-but this is not an adoption of the name of the animal but a pet-form of GRIFFITH. This is also the source of the surname. Var: Gryphus, Gryphon.

Griffith c~ Anglicized form of the Welsh Gruffudd. It has been in continual use in Wales since at least the eleventh century.'The second element is OW: iud(d) "lord," which features in a number of Welsh names.'The first however is trickier. W: cryf "strong" and "powerful" is a possibility. Another option

is that the first element represents a contraction of something beginning with gor- "super," such as gortivydd "steed," gorwyf "pride" or gorwyth "fury." Var: Gruffudd. Dim: GRIFFIN (hist); Griff, Guto. Bearers: Gruffydd ap Llywelyn (c. 1198-1244), a Prince of Wales who died while trying to escape from the Tower of London; Griffith "Griff" Rhys Jones (b. 1953), the Welsh comedian and actor.

Grima c~ A byname of Odin. OE: grima "mask" and "helmet." It could also mean "specter," "ghost" and "apparition." Odin is known for traveling in disguise-he is often portrayed in art as the bearded old man with a staff, very much as Tolkien envisaged his character Gandalf, to whom he referred to as an "Odinic wanderer." Tolkien went on to use the name for the character of treacherous and two-faced Grima Wormtongue in The Lord of the Rings. The Norse equivalent is Grimr, and the Vikings also knew Odin as Grimnir "masked one." Grima survives in such significant place names, associated with the Pagan past, as Grimes Graves and Grids Dyke, as well as towns and villages such as Grimsby and Grimsthorpe-although Grimr was also used as a personal name, so sometimes such places may have had less otherworldly founders.

Grimbald a' Old English: Grimbeald-grim "fierce," "severe," and "terrible" or GRIMA + beald "bold."The name of a ninth-century saint, it was widespread during the Middle Ages, but fell out of use after the Reformation.

Griselda Y Probably OG: grisja "grey" +hild "battle." 'The name wasn't much used until Boccaccio used it in The Decameron, followed by Chaucer in The Canterbury Tales. His portrayal of the "patient Griselda" captured public imagination, inspiring Dekker, Chettle and Haughton's play Patient Grissel (1599) and Charles Perrault's fairy-tale Griseldis (1691) among many others. By the end of the Middle Ages, Griselda had become very popular, mostly in vernacular forms such as Grisel, Grissel, Grissell, Grizel, Grizzel-and even Grizzle. It made itself particularly at home in Scotland.'The Latinate Griselda was restored at the end of the eighteenth century, further boosted by Maria Edgeworth's novel Griselda (1804). In recent times, Griselda has become one of those names which is regarded as a bit "Witchy"; Witch characters of the name include a bad Witch in the

American television series *Passions* (1999-2008), Griselda Blackwood in Jill Murphy's *Worst Witch* series (1974-2007), and Griselda "Crazy Witch Lady" Weezer in the American sitcom *My Name is Earl* (2005-9).

Inevitably, there is also a Griselda in the Harry Potter books too-Griselda Marchbanks, an O.W.L. examiner, while Grizelda the Ghastly Gourmet was a Witch who featured in the Canadian children's television show *The Hilarious House of Frightenstein* (1971). But perhaps this association with Witchcraft isn't ill-deserved; no fewer than twenty-five women of the name are known to have been accused of Witchcraft in Scotland in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries alone-although they went by variants of the vernacular form of Grissel. Var: Grizelda, Dim: Selda, ZELDA. Ger: Griseldis, Sc Ga: Griseal.

Groa ? A Witch and seer in Norse mythology, noted for attempting to remove shards of whetstone from Thor's head through her magic. ON: groa "to grow"-a word strongly associated with the Earth and plants.

Gronw cc In Welsh mythology, Gronw is a mortal man who becomes the lover and accomplice of Blodeuwedd. He spends a year fashioning the spear to kill Llew Llaw Gyffes and launches it at Llew. The scheme is only partially successful- Llew is not killed, but transformed into an eagle. Eventually, he gets his vengeance. Gronw is killed by a spear hurled by the resurrected Llew-even though there is a large boulder in the way. This was called the Llech Gronw, and a boulder with a hole in it was found near Bedd Gronw in 1990. It is possible that the tale is another which preserves the Celtic motif of the perpetual battle of the Oak and Holly, or Summer and Winter Kings. Gronw is found as a genuine given name in Wales from the medieval period, and managed to cling on in use until the present time. The oldest-known forms of the name (Guoruone and Guorgonui) suggest a derivation from MW: *guorgnim* "great toil" and "exertion"-perhaps a reference to Gronw's exertion to make the spear. But the existence of the Celtic God Grannus, associated with healing springs, may indicate that the name is considerably older, probably deriving from CC: **gwrenso-* "heat (of the sun)" or **gwrensnf* "sun." Tellingly, Gronw's epithet is *Pebr*-an older form of W: *pefr* "radiant," "bright," and "gleaming." Var: Goronwy, Goronw, Gronwy, Grono. Bearers: Goronwy Owen (1723-69), a Welsh poet.

Grove cc Y English surname. OE: graf "grove"-used of someone who lived near a grove. Sacred groves are most associated with the Druids, but are found in cultures across the world, and featured among many of the peoples of preChristian Europe. 17th C.

Grover c? English surname. OE: graf `grove"-referring to someone who lived by a grove. 17th C. Bearers: (Stephen) Grover Cleveland (1837-1908), the American President; Grover, a muppet on Sesame Street (1969-).

Guadalupe Y Spanish name, taken from a title of the Virgin Mary-Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe "Our Lady of Guadalupe." This refers to a monastery at Guadalupe, on the banks of the River Guadalupe. The toponym Guadalupe is a hybrid, composed of Ar: wadi "valley" (used specifically of a valley with a river in it) + L: lupus "wolf." In South America, Guadalupe is often used in reference to the Virgin of Guadalupe, a sixteenth-century image of Mary enshrined in Mexico City. Interestingly, in this depiction, Mary stands upon a crescent moon, there are stars on her mantle and she is surrounded by the sun. Used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. Dim: Lupita.

Guaire g Old Irish name, with two possible origins. It Ga: guaire "bristle" < guaire "hair of the head" or 01: goire "filial duty."

Gudrun Y Old Norse: gu8 "a God" + run "whisper" and "secret lore" (see Rune). Late 19th C. Bearers: Gudrun Bran gwen, the principal character in D. H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow* (1915) and *Women in Love* (1920).

Guelder ? e The Guelder Rose is the common name of *Viburnum opulus*-also called the snow-ball tree and crampbark, indicative of the fact that it is used in herbal medicine to treat painful menstrual cramps, constipation, and other muscular discomforts. The name derives from the town of Guelders in Germany, or the province of Guelderland in the Netherlands. According to folklore, the town takes its name from the cry of a dying dragon, killed by a local knight called Wichard (see Guiscard). 19th C.

Guenole c~ A sixth-century Breton saint, known in Cornwall as Winwaloe. That there might be more to him than meets the eye is the fact that his mother is called Gwen Teirbron-the "triple-breasted"; rather indicative that

she might actually represent a Goddess, and that Guenole may have in reality originated as a Celtic God or genius loci, although his presence on both sides of the English Channel is perhaps indicative of a wider cult. The meaning is very unclear. The first element may be CC: *windo- "white," "blessed," and "pure" which occurs in so many Celtic names, but in Middle Breton this was guinn and in Cornish guyn, and neither the Breton nor the Cornish form of the name seem to point that way. It may be that here the root is actually CC: *weniyf "family" and "kindred" instead. The second element is probably *walo- "light," from which the Welsh golau and Cornish golow derive. Fr: Guennole.

Guinevere Y The classic form of the name of King Arthur's queen, as used by Alfred, Lord Tennyson in the Idylls of the King. Guenevere, is used in a number of versions, including Rosalind Miles's Guenevere, Queen of the Summer Country (1999) and the musical Camelot (1960). Gwenyvere is the form used by Malory in Le Morte d Arthur. Her name is almost certainly a combination of CC: *windo- "white" + *s(Ebro- "demon," "specter," and "ghost," making it cognate with the Irish FIONNABHAIR. 14th C. Var: Genever, Genevera, Genievre, Guenever, Gwenevar, GWENIFER, Gwennor, Gwenor, Gwenore, Gwiniver, Gwinore, Jenavara, Jenever, Jenevera, Jenevere, Jenevora, VANORA, Wenneveria. It: GINEVRA, ZINEVRA, Cornish: JENNIFER, Fr: Guenievre, W: Gwenhwyfar, GAYNOR.

Guiscard G~ Guiscard is a Norman name, a hybrid of ON: vizkr "clever" and "sensible" + OG: hardu "hard." This actually makes Guiscard cognate with WIZARD, and the surname Wizard derives from it. Var: Guichard, Wichard, Wiscar, Wiscard, Wischard (hist).

Gulay y Turkish name gul "rose" + ay "moon."

Guldar Y Persian name-guldar "floral," "blooming," "rosy." Var: Goldar, Goli, Guli. Ar: Gulzar.

Gulnar 2 Persian name-gui "rose" or "flower" + inar "pomegranate." Var: Golnar.

Gulpari 2 Persian name gul "rose" or "flower" + pari "fairy."

Gunilda Y Medieval Latin form of Old Norse Gunnhildr gunn(r) "war" + hild(r) "battle." It fell out of use by the fourteenth century, returning briefly in the nineteenth century. The word gun probably developed from Gunna, a medieval short form; it is known there was a canon at Windsor Castle in the fourteenth century nicknamed Gunilda. Quenilda is sometimes considered a variant, but this may have a separate origin-OE: cwen "woman," "lady," "queen," or cyne "royal" + hild "battle." Var: Gunnilda, Gunnilde, Gunnell. Scand: Gunnhild, Gunilla.

Gunner c~ English surname, deriving principally from GUNORA. In some cases, it may derive from the Middle English gunner-a word dating only to the fourteenth century, and used of a soldier who worked a canon, just as gunners today operate heavy artillery. 18th C.

Gunnora Y Latinized form of Old Norse Gunnvgr- gunnr "war" or "battle" combined with a Norse element probably cognate with OE: waru "watchful care," "defense," and "protection" (see Vor). An Old English cognate was Gunware, probably inspired by Gunnvor. Gunnora was a popular name with the Normans, but fell out of use in the course of the fourteenth century. Scand: Gunnvor, Gunvor.

Gunter a' Old German namegundi "war" + harja "army." Cognate with Old Norse Gunnarr. It was taken to Britain by the Normans and saw enough use to give rise to surnames such as Gunter and Gunther, which along with Gunter occur from the end of the seventeenth century, after surnames started to be used as given names. Despite this, Gunter is usually regarded as an entirely German name. Ger: Gunter, Gunther, Scand: Gunnar.

Guntur e Indonesian nameguntur "thunder." Guntur also means "thunder" in Malay.

Gurgustius ' A legendary king of Britain, recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth in the twelfth century. The Welsh form of his name is Gorwst W:gor- "super" + gwst "power," "force," and "excellence."

Giirsel 2 Turkish name-gur "flowing abundantly" + sel "torrent."

Gus cc Y Short form of a number of names beginning, ending or containing a gus; such as ANGUS, AUGUSTA, AUGUSTUS, FERGUS, and GUSTAVUS. Dim: Gussie, Gussy. Used independently since the nineteenth century.

Gustavus c~ Latinized form of the German name Gustav, used in the ESW since the seventeenth century. Gustav is a curious name of uncertain origin. If Germanic, the second element is probably OG: staf "staff." The first element, however, is much trickier. Some suggest Gautr-"Goth"-but this seems an odd combination. Better is simply got-"(a) God." Another option is chud < OG: chuton "to meditate." Although this seems to be rejected by some etymologists now, it makes considerable sense taken in the Pagan context in which the name was almost certainly first used-not to mention it sits most comfortably with one of the oldest versions of the name known: Chustaffus. A comparable name is the Old Norse Gandalf. However, it may be that the name isn't Germanic at all and represents instead a Germanizing of the Old Slavic Gostislav-gost "guest" + slav "glory." Dim: GUS. Scand: Gustaf, Fr: Gustave, Sw: Gosta (dim). Bearers: Gustav Holst (1874-1934), the English composer, whose grandfather was Swedish.

Guy c Guy evolved from Old German Wido < either witu "wood" or wit "wide." It was introduced to Britain by the Normans in the eleventh century in the forms Guy and Guyon, Latinized as Guido. Bearers: Guy Fawkes (1570-1606), one of the ring-leaders in the plot to blow up the English Houses of Parliament in 1605. The plot was unsuccessful, but has been commemorated ever since in Britain on November 5 with bonfires and fireworks, and the tradition of burning an effigy of Guy Fawkes-called a "guy." This is the origin of the use of "guy" as a generic term for a person. Bearers: Guido von List (1848-1919), the German polymath, who played a significant role in the revival of Germanic Paganism among his influential works are *Das Geheimnis der Runen* "the Secret of the Runes" (1906, 1908); Sir Guy of Gisborne, the legendary enemy of Robin Hood; Guy of Warwick, a legendary medieval and early modern English British folk-hero.

Gwalchmai c~ The Welsh hero Gwalchmai is identified with GAWAIN. W: gwalch "hawk" + Mai "May" or MW: mai "field." What was originally intended is difficult to say, but understandably the former interpretation is

the favored one, especially by Pagans, linking the hero Gawain to that most mystical and magical of months. 19th C.

Gwanwyn y ' Welsh: gwanwyn "the spring." 20th C.

Gwawl c ? Welsh: gwawl "light." Gwawl features in early Welsh myth and history as both a male and female name. One Gwawl was the mother of Cunedda, another features in the Mabinogion, as a man who wishes to claim Rhiannon from Pwyll. Due to her cunning, his attempt is foiled.

Gwawr Y Welsh: gwawr "dawn." It was borne by more than one figure in early Welsh history, such as a daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog. Late 19th C.

Gwen Y The feminine form of GWYN. Gwen is often regarded today as a short form of names such as GWENDOLINE and GWENLLIAN-and it is certainly used as such. However, it has been used as a name in its own right for centuries-possibly for two thousand years or more (though not in the same form). A Roman-era tombstone of a woman called Vinda-essentially the Brythonic form of Gwen-was found in Cumbria. Two fifth-century Cornish saints bear the name WENNA-the early Cornish form one of these is said to be a daughter of Welsh Brychan Brycheiniog. Gwenna is the modern Cornish form. Other variants encountered here and there are Wena and Wenn-the form used for the village of St. Wenn in Cornwall. Dim: Gwennie, Gwenny. Bearers: Gwen Stefani (b. 1969), the American singer; Gwen Cooper, one of the principal characters in the science-fiction television series *Torchwood* (2006-); Gwenna, a character in Marion Zimmer Bradley and Diana L. Passons *Priestess of Avalon* (2000).

Gwenda Y Gwenda first appeared in the late nineteenth century, and was probably conceived either as a truncated form of GWENDOLINE, or as a blend of GWEN and LINDA.

Gwenddydd Y The name of Merlin's sister in Welsh legend-as well as a sixth-century saint. W: gwyn + dydd "day." It was Latinized in the medieval period as Ganiada, which is the form it takes in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Vita Merlini* (c. 1150). 19th C.

Gwendoline Y Gwendoline first occurs as the name of a male chief of the Old North in the sixth century in the form Guenddoleu. There is also an obscure saint of the name listed in some calendars-but it is unknown whether this saint was male or female. The etymology isn't a hundred percent certain either; while the first element is almost certainly gwyn, the second is shaky. Whether the "u" at the end of Guenddoleu was a misreading, or whether the now universal "n" is the mistake is difficult to say. A likely candidate steps forward if it was originally an "n"-W: dolen "loop," "link," and "ring"-but if it is a "u," it is harder to explain, with the only plausible option being dolau "meadows." The name is first used of a woman by Geoffrey of Monmouth, who gives it as the name of Merlins wife in the Vita Merlini (c. 1150), where it appears as Guendoloena or Gwendoloena (depending on the manuscript). There are no attested instances, however, of the name in use as a given name prior to the nineteenth century. One of the earliest examples is Lady Gwendoline Anson (c. 1837-1912), a daughter of the Earl of Lichfield. Var: Guendolen, Gwendolen, Gwendolyn, Gwendolena. Dim: GWEN, Gwennie, Gwenny. Bearers: Gwendolen "Gwen" John (1876-1939), the Welsh artist; Gwendoline "Gwen" Raverat (1885-1957), the English artist and writer, and a granddaughter of Charles Darwin; Gwendoline "Gwen" Harwood (1920-95), the Australian poet; Gwendolen Harleth, the principal female character in George Eliot's novel Daniel Deronda (1876); Gwendolen Fairfax, a major character in Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest (1895); Gwendoline (1886), an opera by Emmanuel Chabrier; Gwendolen Chant, a Witch in Diana Wynne Jones's Chrestomanci series (1977-2006); Gwendolyn, a Witch in the American television series Passions (1999-2008).

Gwener Y a' Dydd Gwener is the Welsh name for Friday, developing directly from the Latin dies Veneris "the day of VENUS." Early 20th C.

Gwenfor 2 Feminine form of GWYNFOR. Almost certainly cognate is the Cornish Gwenvor, the name of a cove associated with the famous Cornish ghost, Jan Tregeagle. Early 20th C.

Gwenfyl Y A daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog W: gwyn + mael "noble" or mil "small animal." Late 19th C. Var: Gwenfil.

Gwenifer Y A late medieval and early modern variant of GUINEVERE.
Revived early 20th C.

Gwenllian y Historic Welsh name-gwyn + llant "flood" and "sea."
Gwenllian is one of the few Welsh names which has remained in continual use since the Middle Ages. Dim: GWEN, GWENNO. Bearers: Gwenllian ferch Gruffydd (c. 1097-1136), who led an attack against Norman forces at Kidwelly Castle in 1136, and was killed in battle; Gwenllian ferch Llywelyn (1282-1337), the daughter of the last ruling Welsh Prince of Wales, Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. Her father was killed when she was a baby, and she spent the rest of her life confined to Sempringham Priory in England.

Gwennan Y Old Welsh name, borne by yet another of the legendary daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog. An older form is Gwennant, revealing its origin clearly W: gwyn + nant "stream." It hints strongly at a pre-Christian genius loci at the very least. 20th C.

Gwenno 2 Welsh pet-form of any of the girls' names beginning with Gwen-. Used independently since the nineteenth century.

Gwennol y Welsh: gwennol "swallow." Mid-20th C.

Gwenog Y Old pet-form of GWEN, and the name of an early and obscure Welsh saint. 20th C. A Witch called Gwenog Jones gets a mention in the Harry Potter series.

Gwenola 2 Modern Breton name, coined as a feminine form of GUENOLE. Fr: Gwenola.

Gwenonwy Y Welsh: gwenonwy "lily-of the valley." Late 19th C.

Gwenydd 2 Welsh: gwenydd "joy." Although Gwenydd has been in use pretty much as long as GWYNETH, its use since the latter part of the nineteenth century has almost certainly been down to the resemblance. Similarly, Gwenith-gwenith "wheat"-is also used. Var: Gweneth, Gwenyth. Mid-19th C.

Gwenynen y Welsh: gwenynen "bee." Early 20th C.

Gwerful Y Old Welsh name. It was borne by one of the loves of the twelfth-century Welsh poet Hywel ab Owen, and Gwerful Mechain, a fifteenth-century female bard of Powis. The etymology is very obscure. Possibly W: gwair "grass" and "hay" + mael "noble" or mil "small animal." Late 19th C. Var: Gwerful, Gweirfyl, Gweiryl, Gweurfyl (hist).

Gwern e Y In Welsh mythology, Gwern was the son of the ill-fated Branwen and her Irish husband Matholwch. The boy was killed by his uncle Efnisien, who, in a fit of pique (to which Efnisien was rather prone), threw him on a blazing fire. W: gwern "alder"-cognate with the Irishfearn. 20th C.

Gwion c~ Known as Gwion Bach-"little Gwion"-this is the name in the Welsh myth of the young boy engaged by Ceridwen for a year and a day to tend the cauldron in which she was brewing the Awen. The Awen was intended for her hideously ugly son Morfran, as compensation for his ugliness. However, at the moment the potion was finally ready, the cauldron bubbled over and splashed Gwion's thumb. Without thinking, he put it in his mouth-receiving the Awen. In a flash, he knew he was in deep trouble with Ceridwen-and fled. Ceridwen swiftly realized what had happened, and pursued. There followed a chase worthy of any Hollywood blockbuster, in what the hunted and the hunter transformed into various animals and birds until at last Gwion turned himself into a grain of wheat. But Ceridwen, now a hen, ate him. Nine months later, she gave birth to the legendary bard Taliesin. There are a number of parallels with the Irish tale of Finn McCool and the Salmon of Wisdom. Gwion's name itself is probably cognate with Finn reflecting an older variant of GWYN. Late 19th C.

Gwlithyn y Welsh: gwlithyn "dewdrop." Late 19th C.

Gwrgan cc Old Welsh name-g-vr "man" and "husband" + can "white," which also may have carried the sense of "bright" (in Modern Welsh, it also means "white flour"). It was the name of an eleventh-century prince. Gwrgant is an even older form, dating to the sixth century. It was the name of the last king of Erging-the modern county of Herefordshire. 20th C.

Gwri cc In the Mabinogion, this is the name given by Teyrnion to the infant Pryderi. Probably CC: *wiro- "man," from which W: g1' r "man" and "husband" derives.

Gwyddfid y Welsh: gwyddfid "honeysuckle." Mid 20th C.

Gwyddon c~ Welsh: gwyddon "wizard" and "scientist" (also "hag") < CC: *w(Edo- "sight" and "presence." Late 20th C.

Gwydion c~ A Welsh deity. Gwydion, a God of knowledge and magic, is one of the Children of Don. It is he who raises the infant Lleu Llaw Gyffes and ensures-through trickery-that Lleu receives all the things his mother Arianrhod cursed him never to have: a name, armor-and a wife. With Math, Gwydion fashions a bride for Lleu from the flowers of oak, broom and meadowsweet, and after this bride betrays Lleu, it is Gwydion who finds his foster-son and restores him to life and health. His name derives from the same root as GWYDDON. Early 20th C.

Gwylan 2 Welsh: gwylan "seagull." Early 20th C.

Gwylawst a 2 Welsh: gvyl "festival" + Awst August." Zhe Welsh name for Llammas.

Gwylfai y c Welsh: gwyl "festival" + Mai "May." Gwyl Fai is one of the Welsh names for Beltane or May Day. It is also known as Calan Mai and even Dygwyl Asa-"St. Asaph's Day." 20th C.

Gwyn o' Welsh: gwyn "white," "pure," and "blessed." Both the adjective and the name go all the way back to Brythonic times, developing in tandem from CC: *windo- "white" and "bright." In Ireland, this became fionn-and FINN is thus Gwyn's Irish cognate. There is considerable evidence to suggest that white was considered a color closely associated with the Otherworld and the Divine. Gwyn ap Nudd is an important figure in Welsh mythology, a God, and king of the Otherworld, who leads the Wild Hunt. He shares more than simply the same name as Finn; there are other parallels which suggest the two may be the same God; there is also a Gaulish God VINDONNUS, whose name derives from the same source. Gwyn's kidnap of Creuddylad leads to his annual battle with Gwythyr,

which may represent the battle of the Oak and Holly kings. "Saint" Gwynno is almost certainly the God, as perhaps is also the River Gwynon. Gwyn was a common first name and byname in the Middle Ages, giving rise to surnames such as Gwinn, Gwyn, Gwynn, Gwynne, and WYNN. Var: Gwynn.

Gwynder c~ Welsh: gwynder "whiteness." 20th C.

Gwyndra y Welsh: gwyndra "whiteness." Early 20th C.

Gwyneira Y Welsh: gwyn + eira "snow." Var: Gweneira. Early 20th C.

Gwyneth Y c~ Anglicized form of Gwynedd, the name of the ancient Welsh kingdom. An early form of the name occurs on a late fifth-century gravestone of one Cantiorix who is described as Venedotis cives "a citizen of Gwynedd." This may be CC: *w(Ednf "hunt" from which the Irish Fianna derives, but it could be from plain *windo- "white," even though most prefer to dismiss this option. If it is *windo- it could be that it took its name from the God GWYN. This is certainly more plausible than attempts to derive it from CUNEDDA. As a given name, Gwynedd is sometimes used for boys, though usually only as a middle name. Var: Gwynneth. Bearers: Gwyneth Paltrow (b. 1972), the American actress.

Gwynfai c~ Y Capel Gwynfe in Carmarthenshire is sometimes called Gwynfai-gwyn + mai-"field." However, the mai can also be understood as Mai-"May," and thus could be interpreted as "blessed May." Early 20th C. Gwynfe has been used since the nineteenth century.

Gwynfor c Welsh: gwyn + mawr "great." Late 19th C.

Gwynora Y Feminine form of Gwynoro, the name of an early Welsh saint. W. gwyn + gawr "shout," gonvydd "steed" or gwared "deliverance" and "relief." Both Gwynoro and Gwynora have been used as names in Wales since around 1900.

Gwythyr c~ A Welsh hero. He features in the Mabinogion in the story of Culhwch and Olwen. It is thought that Gwythyr's annual battle with Gwyn ap Nudd on May Day may represent an echo of the battle of the Oak and

Holly Kings. W: gwythyr "victor." It is probably behind Gayther, found in the Marches as a surname, and a male and female given name from the late nineteenth century. Var: Gwyther.

Gyongyi Y Hungarian name gyongy "pearl."

Gypsy Y The word "gypsy" evolved in the early seventeenth century from the earlier Giiyca < Egyptian, arising from the mistaken belief that the Romani-to whom the term was applied-originated in Egypt. Both "gypsy" and the variant spelling "gipsy" were adopted as given names in the late nineteenth century, demonstrating the strange love-hate relationship non-travelers have long had with the Romani. In popular imagination, the Romani were (and to some extent, still are) viewed as romantic, wild, and mysterious, epitomizing freedom in every sense-as demonstrated by old folksongs such as "'The Raggle Taggle Gypsies" and "'The Gypsy Rover." When encountered face-to-face, however, the Romani have generally been victims of fear, distrust, prejudice, and sometimes downright hate and hostility. Obviously, it is the romantic image of the Romani which has led to Gypsy's use as a given name. Bearers: Gypsy Rose Lee (1911-70), born Rose Hovick, the heroine of Gypsy (1959)-the musical version of her life.

Habakkuk c? Biblical name. Traditionally derived from Heb: hawak "embrace," it is more likely to be from the Akkadian habbaquku-the name of a type of garden herb. 16th C.

Habib c~ Arabic name-habib "sweetheart" and "darling." Fem: Habiba.

Habonde Y Dame Habonde is a figure from medieval French folklore. She receives a mention in William of Auvergne's Roman de la Rose in the early thirteenth century, and occurs elsewhere in French literature as an unearthly being who visits at night and shares considerable characteristics with Queen Mab in British folklore, Nicevenn in Scottish, and Frau Holda in German. She is also identified with Aradia, Herodias, and Noctiluca. It is likely that she is a survival of the Roman Goddess ABUNDANTIA. Var: Abonde, Abunde, Abundia, Avonde, Bonde, Habondia.

Hacon c~ Usual form of Old Norse Hakon used in Britain in the Middle Ages. It died out in most of Britain but survived in the Shetland Isles where it was later rendered by Hercules. ON: hagr "useful" and "handy." Get, Dan: Hagen, Sw: Hakan, Nor: Hakon, Haakon.

Hada Y Spanish: hada "fairy" and "sprite."

Hadad c? Hadad is the Western Semitic cognate of Adad, the Akkadian (and Assyrio-Babylonian) God of storms and the equivalent of the Sumerian Ishkur. The logogram in cuneiform used for his name-im(i)-had the origin meaning of "wind," "storm cloud," and "rain." Hadad itself is of Semitic origin, possibly cognate with Ar: hadda "to crash" or "to break." It occurs as the name of some mortal characters in the Bible, as a variant of HADAR.

Hadar Y e One of the traditional names of the star Beta Centauri (the other is Agena). Ar: hadar "descent." Hadar is also used in some versions in the Bible as a variant form of HADAD; Heb: hadar "splendor" and "glory"-it is also the Hebrew for "citrus." Hadarah is a Modern Hebrew girl's name, an adoption of the related hadarah meaning "adornment" and "glory." Late 17th C.

Hadassah Y Hebrew: hadassah "myrtle." The Hebrew name of the biblical character Esther. The flowers of myrtle were used in Palestine in perfume. 17th C.

Hadi Gc Arabic name-hadi "leader" and "guide." Fem: Hadiya, Hadya.

Hadah Y Malay: hadiah "gift."

Hadiri a' 2 Hausa: hadiri "storm"-used particularly of rainless storms at the end of the wet season.

Hadithi ? c~ Swahili: hadithi "story" and "myth."

Hadley g Y English surname, taken from one of a number of places called Hadley. OE: hceath "heath" + leah. 17th C-mostly for boys. Hadley has recently become one of the latest of the surnames ending in -ley to come into general use as a girl's name in America.

Haf y Welsh: haf "summer." Late 19th C.

Hafgan a Y The name of a king of the Otherworld who features in the Mabinogion. Pwyll kills him while masquerading as Arawn. W: haf "summer" + can "song." In some schools of thought he is believed to represent a Summer King-and thus the Oak King-while Arawn represents the Winter or Holly King. Although the mythological figure is a man, the name has been used for girls, presumably because of its meaning. 20th C. Var: Havgan (hist).

Hafren Y The Welsh name for the River Severn. In Roman times, its Brythonic name was Latinized as SABRINA, which is almost certainly etymologically the same as Hafren. CC: *samo- "summer" + *renwo- "quick" and "fast"-i.e. "fast summer river." The Severn still belts along at a fair old pace in summer today, especially after heavy rain. In Geoffrey of Monmouth, Hafren appears as Habren; he makes her a daughter of King Locrinus and a Saxon woman called Estrildis. According to his tale, both Estrildis and Habren are killed by Locrinus's jealous former queen after she has already killed him in battle, and their bodies thrown into the river. The

queen, in a token gesture to acknowledge Habren's innocence in the matter, named the river after her. Late 19th C.

Hafwen Y Welsh: haf"summer" + gwyn. Early 20th C.

Hagar ? Biblical name. Hagar was a concubine of Abraham-abysmally treated by Sarah, who made Abraham send Hagar and her little son away to fend for themselves in the desert.'The meaning of her name is not entirely clear; some derive it from a rare Hebrew verb meaning "to flee" and thus "flight," others from a verb meaning "to drag away," while a further option is a word meaning "stranger." It may not be Hebrew at all; it is certainly the case that the Ancient Egyptian for "Bedouin" is hgr. Ar: Hajar.

Haidee 2 Haidee was invented by Lord Byron for the name of a Greek peasant girl in his epic poem Don Juan (1821). Its origins aren't entirely clear; though it is probably a variant of the Greek girl's name Haido-Mod Gr: khaideuo "to caress." However, it is possible Byron mistook the Turkish exclamation haydi.! "hurry up" as a girl's name, or what is more likely, as he was a clever chap-he thought it would make quite a good name. A variant form-Haydee- was used by Alexandre Dumas in The Count of Monte Cristo (1844-46), followed by the opera Haydee, on le Secret (1847) by Daniel Auber. 19th C.

Haile cc Ethiopian name. Amharic: haile "power." It is frequently combined with other words, as in the case of the Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie (1892-1975), worshipped as the second coming of the Christian God Jesus Christ by Rastafarians.

Hajna 2 Hungarian name-hajnal "dawn." Var: Hajnalka.

Hale An old diminutive of HENRY-it has also been used as a short form of HAROLD, especially in America. In Shakespeare's Henry IF, Part I and 2, Prince Henry (later King Henry V) is called "Prince Hal." 19th C.

Hala 2 Old Arabic name-halah "halo" and "nimbus"; used of the halo around the moon. By pure coincidence, hala also means moon in Pai. English Halo is also found as a given name.

Halbert Late medieval variant of ALBERT, which continued in use in Scotland and the North of England after the Middle Ages. Revived elsewhere in the nineteenth century.

Halcyon Y An old name for the kingfisher, deriving from ALCYONE. According to myth, kingfishers nested on the sea at the Winter Solstice, and the wind God Aeolus-father of Alcyone-ensured that the weather remained perfectly calm during the period. Hence the use of "halcyon" as an adjective in English meaning "calm," "tranquil," and "placid"-usually used of the weather-and most associated with the expression "halcyon days." Late 20th C.

Haldor e Modern Scandinavian name. ON: Hallporr: hallr "rock + 'orr THOR. Var: Halldor.

Hallam Gi English surname, deriving from one of the places called Hallam, most notably in South Yorkshire, where there is a region called Hallamshire. ON: hallr "(place) at the rocks." Hallam in Derbyshire, however, has a different origin: OE: halh "(place) at the nooks of land." 17th C.

Hallow 2 Archaic English word meaning "saint." In the plural it was used of the relics and shrines not just of saints but also Pagan shrines-and Pagan Gods. It derives ultimately from the same source as the word "holy." This has become so associated with Christianity that most people don't realize it once had meaning pre-Christianity. Exactly what isn't easy to ascertain, but hailag on a Pagan Runic inscription believed to be Gothic is translated as "consecrated," "dedicated," and "sacred." Ultimately it is believed to be derived from a root meaning "health," "happiness," "good luck," and "auspicious"; there is a related Old English verb halsian "to divine," "to augur," and "to declare in the name of something divine or holy" The surname has the more prosaic derivation from OE: halh "nool" and "hollow." 17th C.

Hallowday Y e Scottish name for All Hallow's Day, i.e. November 1st. 'Me word has been used since the sixteenth century, and has sometimes been used more generally to refer to any saint's day or holiday. Mid-19th C.

Halva Y e The name of the Middle Eastern candy or sweet, typically made from tahini (sesame seed paste). Ar: halwah "sweetmeat." 19th C.

Ham c? Biblical name. Heb: ham "hot." It was borne by one of the sons of Noah who was the ancestor of the Hamites, and it is quite obvious that he is a classic example of a mythological figure invented as the legendary founder of a tribe or people. Despite its resemblance to the English word "ham," it has been used since the sixteenth century. Bearers: Ham Peggotty, a character in Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* (1850); Ham Gamgee, a hobbit in *Lord of the Rings*.

Hamd a' Arabic name-hamd "praise," "commendation." Closely related is Hamid-Var: Hameed-usually translated as "praiseworthy."

Hamilton Gc British surname, deriving from Hamilton in Leicestershire, England, now a deserted village. OE: hamel "crooked hill" + tun. 17th C.

Hamish cc Anglicized form of Seumas, the Scots Gaelic form of JAMES. One of its earliest appearances was in Sir Walter Scott's *Chronicles of the Canongate* (1827), and it was also employed more than once by the Scottish novelist Wil Liam Black in works such as *Macleod of Dare* (1883). Late 19th C.

Hamlet The famous title character of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Hamlet is a pet-form of HAMON, in use since the Middle Ages. It was chosen by Shakespeare to render the Medieval Danish Amleth, the form of Hamlet's name used by Saxo Grammaticus in his *Gesta Danorum* (c. 1208). Amleth's origins are very obscure. Probably the most plausible explanation is that the name that lies behind it is Old Norse Anleifr-OLAF. At the time of Shakespeare's play, the English Hamlet was still in use; Shakespeare's own son bore a variant form-Hamnet. Hamner has since faded away virtually to nothing, while Hamlet has been bolstered by the play and is still in use.

Hammer c? English surname, arising either for someone who dwelt in a "ham" (OE: ham "homestead" and "village," etc.) or someone who made hammers-OE: hamor "hammer"; the Norse hamarr also meant "crag," and the word may ultimately be related to the Slavic kamy "stone," perhaps a reference to the material out of which hammers were first made in the

Stone Age.'The most famous hammer belongs to the thunder God'Ithor.'This even had a name-Mjollnir. As such, it has become the principal symbol of Asatru/Heathenism/Odinism. Hammers are generally symbolic of both war and work; combined with a sickle, it featured on the flag of the former Soviet Union to symbolize the fusion of industry and agriculture. It is also a symbol of force and power-King Edward I of England (1239-1307) was known as "the Hammer of the Scots." 18th C.

Hammurabi c~ A Babylonian king of the eighteenth century BCE, famous for his written law code, which is the oldest-known code of laws in the world. His name is thought to be Amorite in origin-a North-West Semitic tribe. His name is recorded in Ugarit in the form mrp'i.'The meaning isn't fully established, but the second element is probably related to the Semitic root rp "to heal" (which also occurs in Raphael). Various theories abound regarding the meaning of the first element, but most likely it represents the theonym (H)ammu, which occurs in other names of the period. Var: Hammurapi.

Hamon a' Old German: Haimo-haimi "house" and "home." Introduced into England by the Normans as Hamon and Hamo. They, and their diminutive forms HAMLET, Hamner, and Hamelin, originated a number of surnames, including Hamlet, Hamlin, Hammond, Hamner, and Hamson.

Hamza e Arabic name-hamiz "to be strong" and "to be fortified."

Hana 2 Variant of HANNAH; it is also the Arabic, Czech, Icelandic, Persian, and Slovak form of the name. Hana is also a Japanese girl's name, meaning "flower" and "blossom."The word hana has numerous meanings in other languages, among them "conscience" in Shona; "flame," "glow," "warmth," and "radiance" in Maori; "cactus thorn" in Quechua: "hit with a hammer" in Makonde; and "blame" or "insult" in Czech.

Hangwi cc y Lakota: hapwi "moon."

Hank c~ Originally a short-form of JOHN, Hank is now used as a short form of HENRY, mostly in America, where it has seen independent use since the nineteenth century.

Hannah y Hannah is often said to mean "favor" or "grace." This isn't strictly true. Hannah actually comes from the (usually) male name Hanani-Heb: "(he) has been gracious to me." The Hebrew word for "grace" or "favor," though closely related, is *chen*. 16th C. Var: Hanna, HANA, ANN, ANNA. Est, Get, Scand: Hanna, Ar: HANA, Mod Heb: Channah. Bearers: Hannah Cowley (1743-1809), an English playwright; Hannah Arendt (1906-75), the German-born political theorist; Hannah Abbott, a Witch in the Harry Potter series; Hannah Webster, a "warlock" in American television drama *Charmed* (1998-2006); Hannah Tupper, a woman accused of Witchcraft in Elizabeth George Speare's children's novel *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* (1958).

Hannibal c~ The name of the famous Carthaginian General meaning "BAAL is gracious." It has seen use as a given name since the sixteenth century, particularly in Cornwall and Devon, England. Bearers: Hannibal Lector, the fictional serial killer, who first appeared in Thomas Harris's novel *The Red Dragon* (1981), but became a household name following the film version of *The Silence of the Lambs* (1988); John "Hannibal" Smith in the American television series *The ATeam* (1983-87).

Haneul y Korean name-haneul "sky" and "heaven."

Happy Y c~ The use of Happy as a given name dates to the eighteenth century, but in that period almost certainly represented the adoption of the surname. This may have derived from the English adjective, although it is probably a corruption of Heapy, which comes from the village of Heapey in Lancashire-OE: *heope* "brambles" + *eg* "island" or "promontory." Usage in the nineteenth century, however, suggests that by that period the adjective was foremost in people's minds. 'ere was a Happy Bee born in 1852, a Happy Bird in 1859 and even a Happy Always Wilkins in 1849. In the twentieth century, Habib has sometimes been rendered into English as Happy. It is probably most associated now with the dwarf in Disney's *Snow White* (1937).

Hara Y c~ Sanskrit: Kara "bearing (away)." Epithet of two important figures in the Hindu pantheon-Radha, consort of Krishna (when it is essentially the feminine form of HARI), and Shiva.

Hardwin c Old English: heard "hardy" + wine "friend." It survived the Norman Conquest, perhaps reinforced by a German cognate. Although it died out after the Middle Ages, it had given rise to the identical surname, which was bestowed as a given name from the seventeenth century.

Hardy c ? English surname. ME: hardi "bold" and "courageous." 18th C.

Hare Y cc In Hinduism, hare features in the Maha Mantra of devotees of Krishna-more familiarly known as the Hare Krishna. It isn't entirely clear whether it represents the vocative of HARI or HARA-it could be either. The English word "hare" has strong Pagan connotations, the hare being long associated with the Goddess and with Witches. This stems largely from the peculiar habit hares have of gazing at the full moon, coupled with the fact that there appears to be a hare on the face of the moon itself. Stories of Witches turning into hares abound in British folklore and the hare is also a symbol of fertility and birth due to an old folk-belief that they laid eggs. Their spring "madness" during the mating season is also legendary. That the hare held a place of special significance for the Celts is seen in an anecdote recorded by Dio Cassius about Boudicca. Just before going into battle, Boudicca let a hare out from her cloak-the way the hare ran away was used to divine that her forces would win the battle (which they did). This association of hares with good fortune is probably what lies behind the use of rabbits' feet as lucky charms, a practice which still lingers today. The English surname Hare evolved from three sources-OE: hara "hare" (used as a nickname for someone who was swift), OE: hoer "hair" (a nickname for someone whose hair was presumably noteworthy in some way), and OE: hoer "stony ground." 17th C.

Harebell Y The delicate little harebell flowers between June and August. In Scotland it is called a bluebell, and is the flower referred to in the famous Scottish song "Bluebells of Scotland." Symbolizing sorrow and submission, in folklore, it is associated with both Witches and fairies. Witches were said to use harebells to transform themselves into hareshence the name. It is also called fairies' thimbles; the fairies were said to curse those who trod on or picked the harebell, the source of another of its names-dead man's bells. Despite this, it was sometimes used as a folk-remedy in the past to cure ear-ache. Its name is purely a combination of HARE + "bell." Late 19th C.

Hari a' Another name for Krishna. San: hari "green," though "greening" might be a better translation, as understood in the name is Krishna's role as a God of growth and renewal. Hari is also found in combination with HARA as Harihara, symbolizing a combination of Vishnu and Shiva and treated as representing the Supreme Being. Bearers: Hari Kumar, a character in Paul Scott's *The Raj Quartet* (1966/75); Hari Seldon, a central character in Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* series (1951-93).

Harlan e Y English surname, a variant of Harland, from one of the places in England which feature it in their names, such as Harland Edge in Derbyshire. OE: hara "hare," haer "rocks" or har "grey" or "boundary" + land "cultivated land" and "estate." 17th C. Bearers: Harlan Cohen (b. 1962), an American novelist.

Harlequin c? Y Now considered to be simply a stock character of the *Commedia dell'arte* from the fifteenth century onwards, and the Harlequinade from the eighteenth, Harlequin's origins may well be far more significant; his name almost certainly derives from HELLEQUIN. Since the late eighteenth century, harlequin has also been used as an adjective, referring to anything which has Harlequin's characteristics, particularly his distinctive multicolored clothes. Late 20th C. It: Arlecchino, Fr: Arlequin.

Harley c~ 2 English surname, from places called Harley in Shropshire and West Yorkshire. OE: hara "hare" + leah. It was first used as a male name in the seventeenth century, and came into use as a girl's name in the late twentieth century, possibly inspired by the use of similar Hayley. Harley is best known as a type of motorcycle, the Harley-Davidson, in production since 1903.

Harmony Y French: harmonic "harmony" < L: harmonia < Gr: harmonia "agreement" and "concord"-specifically of musical sounds < harmozd "to fit together" and "to arrange." Harmonia is the Greek Goddess of harmony; in myth she features as the wife of Cadmus and mother of Semele, Io, and her sisters. A second Harmonia was the ancestress of the Amazons. 17th C. Bearers: Harmony Kendall, a character in the American television drama *Puffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003) and its spin-off show *Angel* (1999-2004).

Harold cA Old English: Hereweald-here "army" + weald "power." Harold owes a great deal to its Norse counterpart Harald or Haraldr from Old Norse Harivald. It remained in general use after the Norman Conquest and is found in a number of variant spellings in the Middle Ages, including Arold, Eral, HERALD, Herold, and Herolt. Various surnames derive from it, such as Harold, Harrell and Harrod, Herald, and Herold. Like other Saxon names, it saw little use after the Middle Ages, but was revived in the nineteenth century. Dim: HAL, HARRY. Bearers: Harold Godwinson (c. 1022-66), the last Anglo-Saxon King of England; Harold Lloyd (1893-1971), the American comic actor; Harold Macmillan (1894-1986) and Harold Wilson (1916-95) both British Prime Ministers; Harold Arlen (1905-86), the American composer of The Wizard of Oz, including "Over the Rainbow."

Harper a' Y English surname. OE: hearpere "harper." 17th C. Use as a girl's name in the twentieth century may have been influenced by the international fashion magazine Harper's Bazaar (1867-). Bearers: (Nelle) Harper Lee (b. 1926), the American novelist; Harper Finkle, a character in the American children's television series Wizards of Waverley Place (2007-).

Harrier c The name of the bird of prey. ME: harrier "one who harries or lays waste." "There are two particular types, the marsh harrier and the hen harrier. Both were once widespread in the British Isles, but suffered badly in the last century, although things are now improving for them once again. The British military aircraft the Harrier Jump Jet is named after the bird. 19th C. Dim: HARRY.

Harriet Y A feminine form of HENRY, deriving from HARRY. 'The similar-looking medieval name Herriot was a pet-form of Henry. Harriet developed in the seventeenth century, as a simpler form of HENRIETTA. Var: Harriot. Dim: Hattie, Harry, HARRY. Bearers: Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-96), the American novelist and abolitionist; Harriet Vane, a major character in Dorothy L. Sayer's Lord Peter Wimsey novels (1923-39).

Harris e English surname, deriving from HENRY. 17th C. Some use of its use may be with reference to the Scottish island, which probably derives from ON: herao "district."

Harrison c~ English surname-"son of HARRY." 17th C. Bearers: Harrison Ford (b. 1942), the American actor.

Harry c 2 Traditional English vernacular form of HENRY, used since the Middle Ages. It is also used as a short form of any of the other names beginning with Harsuch as HAROLD, HARRISON, and HARRIET. Bearers: H.R.H. Prince Henry "Harry" of Wales (b. 1984); Harry Potter, eponymous hero of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. Harry Potter is also the name of the hero of the film Troll (1986)-another boy caught up in a world of magic.

Hart c' English surname, deriving from the Middle English hert "hart"-a name for a male deer, specifically, a male red deer over five years old. In medieval times, a hart was the most prized quarry of hunting-one with ten branches on his horns most of all. Along with the stag and deer, a hart in heraldry symbolized peace and harmony, with the rare white hart possessing the most symbolism. Partly because of its rarity-to the point of mythical status-and partly because of its ghostly, otherworldly beauty-the white hart became a symbol of royalty. King Richard II adopted it as his personal badge. Sacred to Artemis in ancient times, in Christian iconography it became an emblem of Christ, and from the Middle Ages onwards it became a symbol of redemption and good fortune. To the Ancient Celts, however, a white hart was considered an omen of ill-fortune. 17th C. Var: Harte, Heart.

Hartley cc English surname, from one of the places of the name. OE: heorot "hart" + leah. 17th C. Bearers: Hartley Coleridge (1796-1849), the son of the English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Haru c Japanese name-haru "sunlight" or "spring," depending on the kanji used.

Harvest c~ ? There is an English surname Harvest-OE: h&rfeſt "harvest," probably used metonymically of a harvester. The earliest use of the word "harvest" was as the name of fall/ autumn-the season when the crops were reaped. Gradually, therefore, from the twelfth century, the word came to be used of the period for reaping, and, by the fourteenth century, the act of reaping and gathering in all the produce. 19th C.

Harvey Harvey's origins are Breton, deriving from Breton: haer "battle" and vy "worthy" Me Old Breton form was Haerveu, but Herve is the form currently used throughout France, and St. Herve remains a popular Breton saint. The name was taken to Britain by the Normans and was popular in the Middle Ages, giving rise to the surname. It fell out of use by the fourteenth century, but returned with the adoptions of surnames as given names, perhaps as early as the sixteenth century. Var: Hervey. The film Harvey (1950) featured a pooka called Harvey which manifested as a six foot rabbit invisible to all but the hero.

Hasi a' y Arabic: hasi "sun" and "daylight."

Hassan a' Arabic name-hasan "beautiful," "handsome," "comely," "goodly," and "good." Hassan ben-Sabah, known as "the Old Man of the Mountains," was the founder of the legendary Assassins. Hassan: The Story of Hassan of Baghdad and How He Came to Make the Golden Journey to Samarkand (1922) was a play by James Elroy Flecker.

Hastee Y Persian name-hasti "existence." Var: Hasti.

Hateya 2 Miwok: ha•tej "to make tracks" or "to press with the foot."

Hathor Y The Greek form of Het-Hert, the name of the Egyptian Goddess of love, beauty, women, fertility, childbirth, music, and dance. Known as "the Great One of Many Names," among her titles are "Lady of the Stars" and "Queen of Heaven." Originally a Goddess of the Milky Way, she absorbed the attributes of the older Goddess Bat-the cow Goddess-and was later strongly associated with Isis. Egyptian Ht-Hr < Ht "big house" and "temple" + Hr "HORUS" or "above." Early 20th C.

Hatshepsut 2 Egyptian name-borne by a number of Egyptian queens and princesses. Egyptian: HAwT "first" and "foremost" + spsst "lady."

Hauhet ? An Egyptian Goddess, the female aspect of the God Huh-he is often represented as a frog, while Hauhet appears as a snake. Egyptian: nHH "eternity."

Havelock G~ The name of the hero of the thirteenth century romance Havelock the Dane. ON: Hafleikr-haf "sea" + leikr-a word with three distinct meanings: "beauty," "game," and "lay." Use from the nineteenth century may represent a revival of the Norse name, or an adoption of the surname which derived from it. Var: Haveloc (hist). Bearers: Havelock Ellis (1859-1939), the British sexologist; Havelock Vetinari, a character in Terry Pratchett's Discworld series (1983-).

Haven Y ' Old English: h&fen "haven" < h&f "sea." Originally it was used of any inlet which offered safe anchorage, and came to mean "harbor" and "port," though it never lost a sense of safety and refuge-hence its later usage to mean a place of shelter, retreat or safety. The surname derives from the sense "harbor," referring to someone who lived in or near a harbor. 18th C.

Havi c3' Y Shona: havi "craving" and "desire."

Havoc e Y A word of uncertain etymology. It has been used since the fourteenth century, originally as a command to an army or band of warriors to start pillaging and seizing spoil after a battle. Later it took on a sense of complete destruction and devastation. It often features in phrases such as "wreke (wreak) havoc" and "cry havoc," as in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, when Antony utters the line: "Cry `Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war..." Late 20th C.

Hawa 2 Malay: hawa "air" and "weather."

Hawis 2 Old German: Hadewidis-hathu "battle" + vid "wide." This became Haueis and Haouys in Medieval French. The Normans took these to Britain, where they became Hawis and Hawise, Latinized as Hawisia. It fell out of use after the Middle Ages, but was revived in the nineteenth century, largely in Wales. Var: Hawys.

Hawk c~ Y Old English: heafoc "hawk" < Old Teutonic: *habuko-z and the root *hab or *haf "to seize." Used generically to mean any bird of prey which hunts by day and is used in falconry. In terms of symbolism, "hawk" and "falcon" are used interchangeably. Famed for the keenness of their eyesight, hawks represent clear-sightedness and perspicacity. The sport of

falconry, a preserve of the aristocracy, dates to the end of the Roman period, contributing to the association of the hawk with nobility and pride, in addition to the hawk's natural proud and aloof demeanor. The bird's apparent ruthlessness has also resulted in it sometimes being associated with pitilessness and cruelty. The English surname arose as a nickname from the bird. 18th C. Var: Hawke.

Hawthorn c~y In times past, the hawthorn was also called the mayflower and more than any other tree or flower, the hawthorn heralds the arrival of that magical time of late spring and early summer celebrated at Beltane when Nature seems at its most fecund and joyous. Her associations with May Day run deep; the hawthorn's blossoms are a symbol of fertility and marriage. Both the hawthorn and blackthorn are often called simply "thorn"; of the two, the hawthorn is considerably less spiky, but no less rich in folklore and allusions. In the Ogham, she is Huath. The five-pointed star can be found in the sepals on the backs of the flowers, and the tree's association with Witches and the Fay is ancient; folklore says that fairies abide wherever the thorn, oak, and ash grow together and harming a hawthorn always brings misfortune. A tree of enchantment, the hawthorn is often found guarding wells and springs. Magically, hawthorn is used in fertility charms and to promote happiness. Medicinally, it is prized for its properties to relieve and heal circulatory disorders including heart disease and high blood pressure-selfmedication, however, is not recommended. The name derives from a combination of "haw" (an old name for a hawthorn berry) + THORN. The surname Hawthorn comes from the tree, and denoted someone who lived by a hawthorn. 17th C. Var: Hawthorne. Hawthorn Ewan was a character in the British film The Wicker Man (1973).

Haya Y Shona: haya "cuckoo." In Quechua, haya means "hot" and "spicy," in Japanese "falcon"-unfortunately, in Turkish it means "testicle."

Hayati c Turkish name-hayati "vital" and "pertaining to life."

Hayato cc Japanese name-haya "falcon" + to "man" and "person."

Hayden c' English surname, taken from one of the places called Haydon in the British Isles-OE: heg "hay" + dun "hill." 17th C. Var: Haydon, Heydon, HAYDN.

Haydn e Y Surname of the German composer Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809). Its adoption dates to the midnineteenth century, and for some reason, it has been a particular favorite in Wales. It may have suggested itself as a variant of HAYDEN, which was already in quiet use at the time. Certainly, the two are now often treated as variants of each other. Haydn derives from Ger: Heide "Pagan." Bearers: Haydn Wood (1882-1959), the English violinist and composer.

Hayfa Y Arabic name-hayfa "slender."

Hayley ? c~ English surname, from Hailey in Oxfordshire-OE: heg "hay" + leak. It came into general use for girls in the latter part of the twentieth century, after the British actress Hayley Mills (b. 1946) rose to fame in 1959. She was named after her mother, British writer and actress Mary Hayley Bell (1911-2005). The usual form in Britain remains Hayley, but the preferred form in America is Hailey. Var: Hailee, Hailie, Haylee, Haylie, Haley, Hallie, Halle-the last made famous by American actress Halle Berry (b. 1966), who is apparently named after Halle's Department Store in Cleveland, Ohio.

Hayri c Turkish name-hayri "good," "beneficial," "auspicious," and "favorable."

Hazael cc Biblical name. Heb: "(a) God sees." 17th C.

Hazan 2 Turkish name-hazan "the fall" and "autumn."

Hazard c~ Old French: hazard, originally used of a type of dice game, which relied heavily upon chance. It is traditionally said to derive from that of a castle called Hasart in Palestine, where the game was invented during a siege. It came to mean both "chance" and "peril" by the sixteenth century. The surname Hazard may derive in part from this, but mostly arose as a nickname for someone who had something wrong with their neck-OE: hats "neck," or someone gray-haired-OE: hasu "gray" + the (perjorative) suffix -ard. 17th C.

Haze Y c The English word "haze"-denoting a thin mist-is often associated with calm spring and summer mornings, and the "heat haze" of a hot

summer afternoon. The word seems to have derived from HAZY. 19th C.

Hazel Y c?' One of the most sacred trees of the Celts, Hazel-the Coll of the Ogham-is the tree of knowledge and inspiration. Felling the hazel once carried the death penalty in Ireland. Ancient hazels surround Connla's well, where lives the Salmon of Wisdom, feeding on the nuts as they drop into the water. It was Finn McCool who caught the salmon and received its wisdom. Ruled by Mercury and the Air, a fork of Hazel is still used for dowsing; hazelnuts are also used for protection, and twigs placed in window-frames guard against lightning. The nutritional value of hazelnuts (also called cobnuts) are undisputed, and in the past, they were used in a preparation for curing a persistent cough. Hazels symbolize reconciliation. OE: h&sel < pre-Germanic: *kosolos, cognate with L: CORYLUS and CC: *koslo- from which Coll also evolved. The Witch or wych hazel is a separate species, valued for its medicinal properties and originating in North America. Witch hazel lotion remains in common use even today for bruises and insect bites. The surname Hazel originally denoted someone who lived by a hazel tree. Also deriving from the tree is "hazel" used as a color, a use which dates from the eighteenth century. The first examples of Hazel as a given name for boys in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century are most likely the surname. As a girl's name, and a direct adoption of the name of the tree, its use dates to the late nineteenth century. Bearers: Hazel, a rabbit in Richard Adams's Watership Down (1972).

Hazy ? c' The adjective of HAZE. it appeared as a word a century before haze itself Exactly where it came from is rather a mystery. The earliest example is "hawsey" and it may perhaps be connected with "haw," a name for the translucent third eyelid of many animals, known as a word from the sixteenth century-though where this came from is also unclear. 20th C.

Heartsease ? An old name for the pansy; combining "heart" and "ease." It was also used generally in the past to mean "ease of heart," "peace of mind," and "freedom from trouble" and "cheerfulness." Late 19th C. Plain Heart is also sometimes found, though largely in the past as an adoption of the surname-a variant of HART. Recently, it has come into use spelled backwards: Traeh.

Heath c~ Y English surname. OE: hced "heath"-used of someone who dwelt "on the heath." A heath is a term largely confined to the British Isles, originally referring to any open and uncultivated ground which was more or less flat and surviving as such in some place names, e.g. Hampstead Heath in London. Nowadays, however, it is generally used of wilder places where heather grows, and has been another word for heather since at least the eleventh century. 17th C. Use since the mid 1960s is principally due to the character of Heath Barkley in American Western television series The Big Valley (1965-69). Bearers: W. Heath Robinson (1872-1944), the British cartoonist; Heath Ledger (1979-2008), the American actor.

Heathen cc Y Old English: hceden "heathen." In the Pagan community, "Heathen" is mostly used of those who have embraced Germano-Norse Paganism-often called Asatru or Odinism-and prefer the Germanic term "Hea then" over the Romanic "Pagan." This stems in part from the widespread belief that Heathen derives from the Gothic haiii "heath" and originally meant "dweller on the heath." However there are problems with this derivation. It seems linguistically more plausible that its roots actually lie, for various complicated reasons, with the Armenian hetanos, a word cognate with the Greek ethnos "nation," which in the plural meant "heathens," although the form it took was probably influenced by hai5i. There is a surname Heathen, from the same source as the noun and adjective. 19th C.

Heather Y One of the loveliest sights of the late summer and early fall is moorland turned purple by flowering heather, and it has long been an inspiration to artists and poets. Unfortunately, the etymology of the word isn't clear. Its modern form looks as though it is related to HEATH, but the older form was hadder and it doesn't go back to the same root as heath. Heather-also known as heath and ling, and Erica or Calluna in Latin-is a plant rich in folklore and association; the white heather is famous for the good luck and protection it offers. Governed by Venus and Water, it is considered sacred to Venus, Isis, and Cybele, among others. It has long been used as a folk-remedy for rheumatism and upset stomachs, and is still used in modern Herbalism for a variety of complaints from insomnia to coughs and colds. The Celts used to turn it into an ale, and bee-keepers still take their hives onto moorland in the summer so that their bees will

produce prized heather honey. In the Ogham, Heather is Ura, and a plant of the Summer Solstice, symbolic of passion and healing. 19th C.

Heaven 2 c~ Adoption of the word "heaven." Its original meaning was "the firmament," i.e. "the arch of heaven," where dwelt the "heavenly bodies"- the sun, moon, stars, etc. It came to mean "abode of God" and "paradise" in the eleventh or twelfth century. The English surname Heaven is a variant of Evans (see Evan). There is little evidence for any use of Heaven as a given name prior to the eighteenth century-a solitary Of Heaven married in 1634-and most use in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries seems related to the surname. Direct use of the noun largely dates only to the late twentieth century.

Heavenly Y Adjective meaning "of HEAVEN" or "like heaven." First used in the nineteenth century, though mostly since the late twentieth, when it has often been followed by names such as Angel, Dawn, Faith, Grace, Hope, Joy, and Star.

Hebe Y Meaning "youth" in Greek, Hebe is the personification of youth; a daughter of Zeus and Hera and equivalent to the Roman Juventas. Since the late eighteenth century, Hebe has also been used as the botanical name of a type of ornamental shrub, most varieties of which originated in New Zealand. 17th C.

Heber c~ Biblical name much mixed up with EBER. Heb: heber "company" < habar "to be joined." It was also used to mean "incantation" and "spell," and is found as such in an infamous passage of Deuteronomy, which was one of those used to justify the persecution of Witches. 16th C.

Hecate Y The name of the Greek Goddess closely associated with Witchcraft. In ancient times, she was often portrayed as a Triple Goddess. Where her name comes from is uncertain. It may simply be the feminine form of Gr: hekatos "far-shooting"; this was an epithet of Apollo, and hekate was an epithet of his sister Artemis, to whom Hecate is closely linked. Another intriguing possibility is that Hecate is in fact a Hellenized version of the Egyptian Goddess HEQET. Originally, Hecate was an Earth Goddess of boundaries, and as such she is Goddess of anything that might be considered to belong to boundaries-in both the physical and

metaphysical worlds-from plain doorways and crossroads to childbirth, death-and, of course, magic and Witchcraft. Late 20th C. Var: Hecate (Gr).

Hecatodorus c~ Meaning "gift of Hecate," Hecatodorus is an attested Ancient Greek name, occurring in Polybius's Histories in the second century BCE. Fem: Hecatodora.

Hector cc The name in Greek mythology of the champion of the Trojans, eldest son of Priam, King of Troy. In The Iliad, he is portrayed as a noble, heroic, dutiful, and courteous man-in considerable contrast to his brother Paris, who caused the Trojan War by abducting Helen. Gr: hekMr "holding fast." Ibis was also an epithet of Zeus. However, if Hector was a real individual, it is unlikely he would have borne a Greek name. Probably, Hector was either a Greek nickname-an obvious choice for the man who was the bulwark of the Trojan army or a Hellenized form of his real name, which would have probably been in Luwian (the language spoken in the area of Troy in the period). The variant Ector features in Arthurian Romance as the name of Arthur's foster-father. Hector has been most used in Scotland, where it is used to render Eachann. 13th C. Bearers: Hector Boyce (1465-1536), the Scottish academic, best known for his Historia Gentis Scotorum (1527); Hector Berlioz (1803-1869), the French composer.

Hecuba Y The name of the wife of Priam, and mother of nineteen children by him-including Hector, Paris, Cassandra, and Polyxena-most of whom were killed during the Trojan War, or in the immediate aftermath. Hecuba is the Latin form of her Greek name-Hekabe-and is of uncertain etymology. Late 16th C. Bearers: Hecuba, a Witch in the American television series Passions (1999-2008).

Hedd Y a Welsh: hedd "peace." 19th C.

Hedda Y Scandinavian short form of HEDWIG. It was made known outside Scandinavia by Henrik Ibsen's play Hedda Gabler (1890). Used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century.

Heddwyn e Welsh: hedd "peace" + gwyn. Its adoption was fuelled in Wales by the Welsh poet Ellis Evans (1887-1917), who adopted the Bardic name

Hedd Wyn in 1910. Its use as a given name post-dates Evans's death at the Battle of Passchendaele in July 1917. Fem: Heddwen.

Hedera y Latin: hedera "ivy." 20th C.

Hedone Y Greek: hedone "joy" and "pleasure"-particularly of the senses. Hedone was personified as a Goddess by the Greeks, considered a daughter of Eros and Psyche, and the equivalent of the Roman Voluptas. 17th C.

Hedwig Y An Old German name-hathu "battle" + wig "war." Scand: Hedvig; HEDDA (dim), Pol: Jadwiga; JADZIA (dim). Bearers: Hedwig, Harry's snowy owl in the Harry Potter series.

Hefin c? Y Welsh: hefin "aestival"-i.e. "belonging to midsummer." Alban Hefin is the Druid name for the Summer Solstice. Hefin has been used as a given name in Wales for boys and girls since the late nineteenth century, though it is now treated mostly (though by no means exclusively) as a male name. Fem: Hefina.

Heidi Y German pet-form of Adelheid (see Adelaide). It was made familiar by Johanna Spyri in her novel Heidi (1880). However, it was the 1937 film of the book starring Shirley Temple that made "Heidi" really well known, and most use post-dates this. Although etymologically unrelated, Heidi does bear a strong resemblance to the German Heide "Pagan"-the feminine of which is Heidin.

Heidrun Y Anglicized form of Old Norse Heiðrun. Heidrun is a goat who eats the leaves of a tree called La radr, which is often said to be the Yggdrasil. Instead of milk, she makes mead, which is given to the warriors in Valhalla to drink. The first element of her name is either ON: heio "bright sky" or "clear sky," heior "bright," "clear," or "cloudless," or the identical heior "heath" or "moor," which in compounds frequently means "Heathen" and "Pagan." The second element may be runa "intimate friend" or runar "secret lore," "hidden lore," and "rune." Var: Heithrun. 20th C.

Heilyn cc Old Welsh name-heilyn "cup-bearer." It is the name of a character in the Mabinogion. The variant Heilin is borne by a saint, and a fifteenth-century poet. Revived in the late nineteenth century.

Heini d' Y Welsh: heini "active," "agile," and "nimble"; cadw heini is Welsh for "keep fit." As a name, it was borne by one of the legendary soldiers who fought with Aneirin at the Battle of Catterick (c. 600 CE), recorded in Y Gododdin. Mid-20th C.

Heinin c~ The name of a bard of Maelgwn, Prince of Gwynedd, who contested with Taliesin in the legendary Contention of the Bards. Taliesin won. Heinin probably derives from HEINI.

Heksie y Afrikaans: heks "Witch." Liewe Heksie, meaning "Dear Little Witch," is the name of a fictional Witch-forgetful and not very competent-who features in a series of popular South African children stories by Verna Vels, first published in 1961 and turned into a television series in 1981.

Heledd 2 Welsh name. It was the name of the sister of a seventh-century prince of Powys, who is reputedly the authoress of the Canu Heledd "Song of Heledd"-although this seems to date to the ninth century. The meaning is very uncertain; heledd can mean "salt-pit" in modern Welsh, and this is the origin of Yr Heledd-ddu, the Welsh name for Northwich in Cheshire, and Yr Heledd-wen-Nantwich. Ynnysoedd Heledd is also the Welsh name for the Hebrides, though what Heledd represent here is not known. The girl's name is most likely connected with either W: helve-originally "possession" and now "protection"-or haul "sun." A tempting option is that it represents a contraction of haulwedd or heulwedd-a combination of haul + gwedd "aspect," "form" or "appearance." Although not attested as names, both occur in early Welsh poetry. Late 19th C.

Helen Y The usual modern English form of HELENA. St. Helen was a popular medieval saint, especially in Britain, where it was believed she was a daughter of Old King Cole. As a result the name was popular in the Middle Ages, usually in the forms ELLEN and ELEANOR. In the late sixteenth century, Helen and Helena were resurrected, and all forms are found from that point onwards. Dim: NELL, NELLIE. Cz: Alena; Lenka (dim), It, Port, Ru, Sp: ELENA, Mod Gr: Eleni, Fin: Eliina, Scand, W: Elfin, Dut, Get, Scand: Helene, Fr: Helene, Serb, Cro: Jelena, Ukr: Olena, Ru: Yelena; Nelka, Nelya (dim). Bearers: Helen Mirren (b. 1945), the British actress; Helen Clark (b. 1950), the New Zealand Prime Minister;

Helen Duncan (1897-1956), a British medium-in 1944, she was last person to be imprisoned under the Witchcraft Act of 1735.

Helena 2 The Latin form of Greek Helene, identical to the Greek helene meaning "torch." However, many scholars believe this is coincidental and its true origins are quite different. An intriguing possibility is a link with SELENE. But whatever its true origins, it has been associated with the word for "torch" since ancient times, interpreted as meaning "shining" and linked to HELIUS. It was introduced to Britain around the time of the Norman Conquest, but not much used outside Latin records-the usual English forms are HELEN, ELLEN and ELEANOR. Helena was readopted again in the sixteenth century. Bearers: H.R.H. Princess Helena of the United Kingdom (1846-1923), a daughter of Queen Victoria; Helena Bonham-Carter (b. 1966), the British actress; Helena Blavatsky (1831-91), the Russian-born writer and founder of the Theosophical Society; Helena Curtens, (1722-38) one of the last victims executed for Witchcraft in Germany.

Helewise Y Medieval English form of Old German Helewidis from haila "hale" and "sound" + vid "wide." It was introduced by the Normans and was used in the medieval period in vernacular forms such as Helewis, Helewys, and Elewys, and Latin forms such as Helevisa and Elwisia. The name fell out of use after the Middle Ages in Britain, but continued in France in the form Heloise, returning to the ESW in the eighteenth century as ELOISA. Hellawes features as the name of a sorceress in Malory's Morte tMrthur (1485).

Helga y Old Norse name-heilagr "holy." Helga was used in Britain before the Norman Conquest but then died out. However, it remained a popular name in Scandinavia and returned to the ESW in the nineteenth century. It also hap pens to share the same roots as the English Seely or Seelie, used of "the Seelie Court," i.e. benevolent fairies.

Helia Y Feminine form of HELIUS. The name of one of the Heliades-the daughters of Helius. She and her sisters deeply mourned the death of their brother Phaethon after he crashed the chariot of the sun-and were turned into poplars.

Heliabel Y Another name of Dindrane-the sister of Percival-who is also known as Amide and Agrestizia. Its origin is unknown, but a variant is Helizabel, which hints at it being a garbled form of ELIZABETH, perhaps influenced by HELEN.

Heligan Y e Meaning "willow" in Cornish, Heligan is famous worldwide now as the name of a Cornish estate, popularly dubbed "the Lost Gardens of Heligan," where a Victorian garden has been restored. Among its treasures is the moss-covered "Mud Maiden," a representation of the Goddess, who sleeps in the woods. 20th C. W: Helygen.

Helius c? Latin form of Gr: Helios-God of the sun, whose name means "sun." He is considered the son of Hyperion and Theia and is brother to Selene and Eos. The Greek equivalent of the Roman Sol and Etruscan Usil, he is also equated with both Apollo and Mithras. The Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, was a statue of Helius. 19th C.

Helle Y Helle is principally a Danish and Norwegian variant of HELGA. However, it is also borne by a character in Greek mythology, a daughter of Athamas by Nephele, and sister of Phrixus. When their stepmother Ino managed to persuade Athamas to sacrifice his children, Nephele sent a flying golden ram to rescue them before he could carry out the deed. Unfortunately, as they flew over the Hellespont, Helle fell off and died-thus giving the Hellespont its name. In reality, of course, it is probably the other way around, the myth arising to explain the name of the Hellespont. It is probably connected with Hellas-the name for Greece-of uncertain etymology. 19th C.

Hellequin G~ In Medieval French passion plays such as la maisnie Helequin and Harlequini jam ilia, Hellequin is a stock character, a "messenger of the devil" who leads a band of demonic horsemen and chases damned souls to Hell by night-which has distinct overtones of the Pagan Wild Hunt. His name occurs in numerous variations such as Herlequin, Herlekin, Helequin, Helquin, and Hennequin. The etymology isn't entirely clear, but a plausible and enticing option is that it evolved from the German Erlenkonig-or "King HERLA" of Germanic legend, a figure who has been linked to Odin and who was immortalized in Goethe's

Der Erlkonig (1782). It is largely agreed that a later manifestation of Hellequin is HARLEQUIN. In the medieval LeJeu Adan (c. 1262) by Adam de la Halle, the variant Hellekin is encountered as the name of a fairy king, a lover of Morgana le Fay.

Herrera 2 Greek: hemera "day." Personified as the Goddess of the day, a daughter of Nyx and Erebus.

Hengist G~ The name of one of the legendary leaders of the Anglo-Saxon mercenaries engaged by Vortigern, who decided to settle in Britain rather than defend it against other would-be invaders. OE: hengest "stallion." 19th C. Bearers: Hengist Pod, one of the main characters in the 1964 film Carry On Cleo.

Henna Y A name used for the Egyptian privet, also called alcanna. "Henna" derives from the Arabic name of the shrub, and is used in English to refer specifically to the dye made from its shoots and leaves. It is much used as a reddishbrown dye for the hair and, when made into a paste, for intricate designs painted onto the skin, called mehndi. Henna is principally used as a given name in Islamic communities, but has been used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century.

Henrietta ? Latin form of French Henriette, a feminine form of HENRY coined in France in the sixteenth century. It was brought to England by Henrietta Maria (1609-69), the queen of King Charles I. Dim: ETTA, Hen, Hetty, Hettie. Var: HARRIET. It: Enrica, Dut: Hendrika; Drika, Heintje (dim), Fin: Henriikka, Ger, Scand: Henrike, Pol: Henryka (Polish).

Henry c~ Henry began life somewhere in the Germanspeaking lands over a thousand years ago as HaimirichOG: haimi "house" + ricja. This was Latinized as Henricus, from which the French Henri derived, a name taken to England by the Normans. It rapidly became one of the most popular of all names, a status which-in Britain, at least-it retains to this day. Var: HARRY; Herry, Hendry (hist). Dim: HAL; Halkin, Herriot (hist). It Ga: ANRAI, EINRI, Sc Ga: Eanraig, Basque: Endika, Cat: Enric, It: Enrico, Sp: Enrique, Dut, Fin: Heino (dim), Ger: Heinrich; Heinz (dim), Dut: Hendrik, Ger, Hun, Scand: Hen rik, Lith: Henrikas, Fin: Henrikki, Heikki, Port: Henrique, Pol: Henryk, Cz: Jindrich. Bearers: eight English kings,

including Henry VIII (1491-1547); six kings of France; four kings of Castile; six Holy Roman Emperors; Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland (1564-1632), popularly dubbed "the Wizard Earl"; Henry David 'Moreau (1817-62), the American philosopher; Henry Winter, a principal character in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (1992).

Hephaestus cc Latinized form of Greek Hephaistos, the God of fire and metalwork. Hephaestus is the equivalent of the Roman Vulcan and shares characteristics with deities in other pantheons as well, notably Wayland the Smith and Gofannon. There is evidence that Hephaestus was worshipped in the Bronze Age; a Linear B tablet contains a name which has been interpreted as being Hephaestus-apa-i-ti-jo. In some parts of the Greek world, he was called Haphaistos, and his name is possibly connected with Gr: haphe "lightning" and "kindling"; generally, however, the etymology is dismissed as unknown and probably pre-Greek.

Hephzibah Y Biblical name. Heb: "my delight is in her." 16th C. Var: Hepzibah. Dim: Eppie, Hepsie. Bearers: Hephzibah "Eppie" Cass/Marner is the heroine of George Elliot's novel *Silas Marner* (1861); Hepzibah Smith, a Witch who features in the Harry Potter series.

Heqet ? Egyptian frog-headed Goddess of fertility. She watched over mothers in childbirth, who would wear amulets depicting a frog during labor to invoke her protection. The origin of her name is unclear; the Egyptian Hqt means "Heqet"-and "beer." Var: Heket, Heqat.

Hera 2 The queen of the Greek Gods and Goddesses, sister and wife of Zeus, equated by the Romans with Juno. She is the Goddess of women, marriage, and childbirth. Her name is attested on Linear B tablets of the Bronze Age as e-ra, but its etymology is unclear-unsurprising for a Goddess of such antiquity. Suggestions that have been put forward aren't especially convincing, and it may be as well to think that Hera simply means "Hera" and all that she embodies. Her principal symbols are the pomegranate and the peacock. 19th C.

Heracles c~ Latinized form of Herakles, the name of the legendary hero and demigod, also known to the Romans as HERCULES. Gr: HERA + kleos "glory" i.e. "glory of Hera"-but this is probably deceptive, and an

example of the Greeks reshaping a name to give it clear meaning in their tongue. In Heracles's case, the meaning is laced with irony, bearing in mind how much Hera hated Heracles.'The cult of Heracles was ancient, and there is plenty of evidence to suggest it had roots in the Middle East-it is quite probable his name arose there also. A possible source is ERRAGAL. 19th C.

Herald c\ Herald was actually a medieval variant of HAROLD, and is partly responsible for the surname. Some Herald's, however, may descend from a medieval "herald"-i.e. a man who made proclamations, took messages back and forth between princes and nobles, and ran the show at a tournament. It is used principally today to mean "announcer," usually only in poetic and dramatic contexts. The etymology isn't entirely clear; the Middle English was heraud or herault Latinized as haraldus and heraldus, and some think it derives from the same source as Harold. But this isn't all that plausible, and it is more likely to be connected with the Old High German harm "to cry" and "to call." 17th C.

Herb Y Herb was originally a short form of HERBERT. In recent use, however, it is often a simple adoption of the English word "herb." Herbs have been valued since ancient times for their many uses, particularly magical, medicinal, and culinary, but also for perfumes and incenses, for "strewing," to keep clothes fresh, ward away insects, and so on.'The word derives ultimately from L: herba "grass," 18th C. Dim: Herbie.

Herbert c~ Although there was an Old English name Herebeorht-here "army" + beorht, it was the Old German cognate Hariberht-taken to England by the Normans that is responsible for the name's use in the Middle Ages. It wasn't much used afterwards, but the adoption of surnames buoyed the name up until it was revived generally in the nineteenth century, strongly influenced by the fact that Herbert is the surname of an aristocratic family who bear the title of Earls of Pembroke. Ger: Heribert. Dim: HERB, Herbie. Bearers: Herbert Hoover (1874-1964), the American President; Herbert Henry Asquith (1852-1928), the British Prime Minister.

Hercules Gc The Roman name for HERACLES.'The cult of Hercules arrived in Italy at a fairly early date; Ercle- identified universally with Hercules-was a favorite God of the Etruscans and it is from the Etruscan,

rather than from the Greek, that the Latin form Hercules developed. Hercules has been used since the sixteenth century, and has taken particular root in Scotland and Ireland, where it has been used to render Athairne, and Hacon in the Shetland Islands. Fr: Hercule, It: Ercole. Bearers: Hercule Poirot, the hero of a series of novels by Agatha Christie.

Hereward cc Old English: here "army" + weard "warden" or "guard." It was famously borne by Hereward the Wake (c. 1032-72), a legendary Saxon who led a resistance against the Normans. His name didn't long survive the Norman Conquest, but reappeared in the nineteenth century, largely in the wake of Charles Kingsley's novel Hereward (1865).

Heri cc Heri is a Faroese boy's name, in use since at least the fourteenth century, deriving either from ON: heri "hare" and "hare-hearted," or Kerr "army." Heri also means "happiness" in Swahili. Bearers: Heri Joensen (b. 1973), lead singer of Pagan folk-metal band TTr (1998-).

Heritage e Y Old French: heritage < heriter "to inherit." Its meaning has changed little since it first entered the English language in the thirteenth century, though it is used now largely of communal and cultural inheritance, something which many Pagans feel keenly, considering it important to look to the customs and beliefs of the past and to preserve them for future generations. The surname Heritage derives from the same source. 17th C.

Herja ? A Valkyrie in Norse mythology. ON: hgr "army." She may be one and the same with the Germanic Goddess Hariasa, whose name was preserved on an inscription from the Roman period.

Herla In Germanic mythology, Herla is the leader of the Wild Hunt, and is frequently identified with Odin. The etymology, however, is unclear. It may be connected with ON: alfr "elf" or OG: elira or erila from which the modern German erle "alder" derives; the alder is sacred to Odin.

Herman e Old German name-harja "army" or "host" + mana "man." It was taken to Britain by the Normans, and gave rise to surnames such as Harman. It didn't survive, however, and now is considered a purely German name, where it is usually spelled Hermann. Fr: Armand, It, Port, Sp:

Armando. Bearers: Hermann Hesse (1877-1922), the German-Swiss author, most famous for *Siddhartha* (1922) and *Steppenwolf* (1927). Herman Munster was a principal character in American television sitcom *The Munsters* (1964-66).

Hermes e The Greek God Hermes is thought of principally as the messenger of the Olympian Gods and a psychopomp, a role arising from the fact he is also a God of boundariesmaking him a male counterpart of Hecate. And the similarities don't end there.'There are distinct hints of magic about him, from his "magic wand"-the caduceus-to his associations with the night. He was seen in ancient times as a protector of those on the fringe of society, both those who were only temporarily in that position (namely travelers) to those who resided there permanently, i.e. thieves, prostitutes-and Witches. It is Hermes who rescued Odysseus from a potentially very sticky situation by giving him some moly, a magical plant which protected him from Circe's magic.'The Romans identified him with Mercury, and when the Romans compared their Gods to those of their neighbors, they said that Mercury was chief among the deities of the Germans, making it likely that they identified him with Wotan (see Odin). Unfortunately Hermes is as much associated now with the French designer label Hermes as the Greek God. 17th C.

Hermia ? The name of a character in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which seems to have been invented by Shakespeare-clearly based on HERMES, although he may have intended it as a variant of HERMIONE.17th C.

Hermine Y German and French feminine form of HERMAN, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. A related name is Hermondine, which appears as the name of a Scottish princess in the fourteenth-century romance *Meliador* by Jean Froissart.

Hermione Y The name of a daughter of Helen and Menelaus. Her father promised her to both Neoptolemus, son of Achilles, and Orestes, son of Agamemnon. Myths differ in how things panned out, but all agree that in the end she ended up with Orestes. Her name derives from HERMES. 17th C. Bearers: Hermione Gingold (1897-1987), Hermione Baddeley (1906-86), and Hermione Norris (b. 1967)all British actresses; Hermione Granger,

one of the main characters in the Harry Potter series. Hermione was also used by Shakespeare for the heroine of *A Winter's Tale*.

Herne c? The name of an important figure of English folklore. Herne the Hunter is a manifestation of the "Wild Huntsman" who frequents medieval legend, haunting the wild woods with his packs of spectral hounds. Herne is particularly associated with Windsor Great Park. He features in Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, in which he is described thus: "all the winter time at still midnight,/walk round about an oak, with great ragg'd horns." It is likely Herne represents a survival of Odin as Lord of the Wild Hunt-less certain is the source of his name. Despite the obvious parallels and similarity, it cannot be derived directly from CERNUNNOS on linguistic grounds. However, it could easily derive from the cognate OE: horn. Another plausible source is Herian (ON: Herjan), a title of Odin < heri "army," and often translated as "lord of hosts." This may also have links with Erlenkonig (see Hellequin). The surname Herne derives from OE: hyrne "angle" or "corner." 17th C. Var: Hern, Hearn, Hearne.

Hero Y c~ The name of more than one female character in Greek mythology, including a daughter of Priam of Troy, and the beloved of Leander. The origins are not at all clear; it has the appearance of deriving from Gr: girds "hero." Hero is also used as the Latin form of the Greek male name Heron, a name borne by more than one historical figure, such as the mathematician Hero of Alexandria (c. 10-70 CE). Shakespeare used Hero as the name of one of the female characters in *Much Ado About Nothing*. The English "hero" derives directly from the Greek. 17th C. Bearers: Hero Fiennes Tiffin (b. 1997), a British child-actor known for playing the young Lord Voldemort in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (2009).

Herod cc English form of Greek Heroides (sometimes written Herodes-in Greek, the "i" is written beneath the "o" and is therefore often ignored when the name is transliterated). Gr: eras "hero" + the suffix -ides. It was a name borne by more than one king of Judea. The Bible largely demonizes the lot of them. 17th C.

Herodiade 2 A variant of HERODIAS recorded by the folklorist J. B. Andrews in 1897. He described her as a figure in Italian folklore, who flew

through the air-sometimes attended by a train of spirits and Witches. Var: Erodiade.

Herodiana Y Herodiana first seems to appear in a work by Carlo Ginzburg in 1990, in which he proposes that the Goddess HERODIAS evolved as a combination of the names of the Goddesses HERA and DIANA. When Herods name occurs in combinations, it is often as Hero- (such as Herodotus), so the change from Hera- to Hero- is not without precedent. The word Herodiana does go back to Antiquity, but as either the feminine, or the neuter plural, of Herodianus "belonging to Herod"-occurring as such in the first-century CE writings of the Roman historian Flavius Josephus.

Herodias Y Herodias-the feminine form of HEROD-was the name of more than one Jewish princess in Antiquity, most notably the notorious sister-in-law of Herod Agrippa, who engineered the beheading of John the Baptist. Medieval legend said that for this crime, she was condemned to wander the Earth for eternity, allowed to rest in the tops of trees from midnight until dawn. Whether it is a coincidence or not that her name is identical to that of the medieval Herodias, a Goddess of the night, who flew at night in the train of Diana's wild hunt, is uncertain. If the name of the Goddess originally really was HERODIANA, then it is not beyond the realm of possibility it would become merged with the more familiar Herodias. However, another plausible suggestion is that Herodias was used as a substitute by Church scribes for HOLDA. Certainly Holda and Herodias the Goddess appear to share very similar attributes. It is thought that Herodias is also the source of ARADIA. 16th C. Var: Heroda, Herodia, Erodias. Rom: Irodiada.

Herodion c~ Derived from HEROD, Herodion is the name of more than one saint. Ru: Rodion; Rodya (dim). It may be the source of the Romani name Harodain, recorded in the nineteenth century.

Herodotus Gc Greek name meaning "gift of HERA." It is most associated with a historian of the fifth century BCE.

Herophile Y Greek name-HERA + philos "friend." In Greek and Roman mythology, Herophile was a legendary sibyl of Delphi.

Hersilia Y The name of Romulus's wife in Roman legend; a fairly large main-belt asteroid was named after her in 1879. The etymology is very uncertain. It may derive from Gr: herse "dew" and "dewdrop"-which was also used metaphorically of young and tender animals.'The ending -ilia is diminutive, implying "little." In Greek mythology, Herse was a daughter of Cecrops. 19th C.

Hervor Y A Valkyrie in Norse mythology. The etymology is unclear; the first element is probably from ON: Kerr "army," the second may be vorr "lip" or possibly vorn "warn" or voro "female poet."The latter sits best with her epithet alvitr- "all-wise." It is still used in Scandinavia, particularly Sweden.

Herzeloide 2 The name of the mother of Parzival in Wolfram von Eschenbach's epic thirteenth-century poem. The etymology is very uncertain, but it seems likely that Wolfram coined it from Ger: herz "heart" + leide "sorrow." Herzeleid is an old-fashioned German word meaning "heart-ache."

Hesione Y The name of more than one character in Greek mythology, but in particular of a Trojan princess, the sister of Priam and mother of Teucer, who was rescued from a sea monster by Heracles.'The etymology is unclear; the most persuasive option is a derivation from Gr: edd "to please" and "to delight." Hesione (1700) is an opera by Andre Campra, and the name features in George Bernard Shaw's play Heartbreak House (1919). 19th C.

Hesper ? c~ A poetic name for the Evening Star. L: Hesperus < Gr: Hesperos "of evening," "evening," and "Evening Star."Mid 19th C.

Hespera Y Greek: hespera "evening." Hespera is the name of one of the Hesperides-"the Daughters of Evening"-the nymphs who guarded Hera's golden apples and the grove where they grew. Where exactly this mythical grove lay is not known, except for the fact it was in the far west. Among the options are: a land beyond the River Oceanus, the legendary island of Hyperborea (i.e. Britain), or somewhere near Mount Atlas. Exactly how many Hesperides there were also varies; at their maximum, seven are given, although they are padded out with nymphs whose names are all

variations on the Hespera theme: Hespera herself (also found as Hespere), Hespereia (Hesperia), and Hesperusa.

Hesperis ? Singular of Hesperides (see Hespera), thus meaning "one of the Hesperides." Hesperis is given as the name of the mother of the Hesperides in some versions of the myth. In Ancient Greek, it also meant "night-scented stock" (Matthiola tristis), and today is the botanical name for a genus of flowering plants in the mustard family, such as *Hesperis matronalis* better known as dame's rocket, mother-of-the-evening, and night-scented gillyflower.

Hester 2 Variant of ESTHER; the two are used interchangeably from the sixteenth century. Another variant is Hesther-a halfway meeting between the two. Bearers: Hester Thrale (1741-1821), a Welsh patron of the arts and diarist; Hester Prynne, the heroine of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (1850).

Hestia Y The Greek Goddess of the hearth, equivalent to the Roman VESTA. Gr: hestia "hearth" and "home." 19th C. Bearers: Hestia Jones, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Heulwen 2 Welsh name-haul "sun" + gwyn. Late 19th C.

Hex c~ ? The English "hex" meaning a "Witch" or "magic spell" originated in America, where it was borrowed from the Pennsylvanian German *hexe* in the nineteenth century. Hex also means "six" in Greek, and it is likely it is with this in mind that Hex was first used as a given name in the nineteenth century.

Hexaka ? Lakota: *hehaka* "elk."

Hexilda Y The name of a Saxon heiress connected to Hexham in Northumberland, England, although whether the town derives its name from her, or from its old name Hagustaldes ham is more difficult to establish. It would be tempting to suggest that Hexilda herself emerged from Hagustaldes in a bit of folk-etymology and lore-except she does seem to be an attested historical figure. The second element of her name is

straightforward-OE: hild "battle." The first is more difficult. It may be OE: hehst "highest." Var: Hexstilda.

Hezekiah c? Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh is strength" or "Yahweh strengthens." 16th C.

Hiawatha Gc The eponymous hero of Longfellow's famous poem of The Song of Hiawatha (1855). It is the Anglicized form of Hayowent'ha, which means "he who combs" in Onondaga. In origin, Hiawatha was a folk-hero, the legendary founder of the Iroquois Confederacy. 19th C.

Hibernia Y The Roman name for Ireland. It almost certainly derives-like ERIU-from CC: f weryon- "earth" and "soil." 17th C.

Hibiki c~ Japanese name-hibiku "echo," "sound," and "ring."

Hilaria 2 Latin: hilaria "merriment." Hilaria-as the plural of hilare "merry (thing)"-was the name of the festival in honor of Cybele held at the Spring Equinox, characterized by much merriment and joy. Hilaria was also the name of a fourth-century saint, accounting for its use as a given name in the Middle Ages, when it developed the vernacular form HILARY. 12th C. Var: Illaria, Yllaria (hist). Sp: Hilaria, It: Maria.

Hilary Y c? Anglicized form of Hilarius and HILARIA. Hilarius was the name of a fourth-century French saint and was taken to England in the twelfth century. After the Middle Ages, Hilary was largely used as just a man's name, but it was revived for girls in the early twentieth century. Fr: Hilaire, W: Ilar, Ru: Mari, It: Ratio.

Hilda y Old English: hild "battle." St. Hilda of Whitby (c. 614-70) was a powerful and influential woman, who played a prominent part in the spread of Christianity in England. It was her fame that ensured the name survived the Norman Conquest, and it remained in use-particularly in the Whitby area-until it was resurrected in the rest of the ESW in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Hilda Bernstein (1915-2006), the South African women's rights activist and campaigner against apartheid; Hilda Spellman, a Witch in the American television series Sabrina the Teenage Witch (1996-2003).

Hildebrand cc Old German: hildi "battle" + branda "sword" or "brand." The eleventh-century St. Hildebrand was responsible for its use in medieval times.

Hildith Y Old English: Hildgyf-from hild "battle" + gyf "stife" and "battle"-survived the Norman Conquest to give rise to a rare surname. 19th C. Var: Hildyth.

Hildred Y There was an Old English male name Hildroed-hild "battle" + reed "counsel"-from which the English surname Hildred evolved. The name vanished after the Middle Ages, returning at the end of the eighteenth century, its use at first an adoption of the surname. As the nineteenth century wore on, it may have seen more general use for boys as a male form of Hilda, and for girls because of its similarity to Hilda and Mildred.

Hind Y c~ An old name for a female deer, specifically a red deer three years old or more. The surname Hind arose as a nickname from the animal-probably for someone who was timid. 17th C. Var: Hinde, Hynd, Hynde.

Hippolyta 2 Feminine form of HIPPOLYTUS. It was the name of an Amazonian queen, the mother of Hippolytus by Theseus. 16th C. It: Ippolita.

Hippolytus c? Greek: hippos "horse" + luo "to set free." In Greek mythology, Hippolytus was a devotee of Artemis, who carried his devotion too far and offended Aphrodite through his wholesale rejection of her and all she stood for. She had her vengeance. His dedication to Artemis was rewarded, however, and after death he was transformed into the God Virbius. Although St. Hippolytus is an attested historical figure, the manner of his martyrdom-being torn apart by horses-is suspicious; the mythical Hippolytus was also killed by horses. Hippolytus was used in honor of the saint in the Middle Ages-and the classical hero from the late sixteenth century. Var: Ippolitus, Ypolitus, Ypolit. Hippolit, Hippolite, Hippolett, Hyppolite (hist). Cat: Hipblit, Port, Sp: Hipolito, Fr: Hippolyte, It: Ippolito.

Hiram c? Biblical name, evolving as a short form of Ahiram-Heb: "my brother is high." It featured in the Bible as the name of more than one Phoenician king. 16th C. Bearers: Hiram Abiff, a legendary figure in Freemasonry.

Hiroshi a' Japanese name-hiroshi "tolerant," "generous," and "liberal," or hiroshi "extensive" and "prosperous."

Hiroto a Japanese name-biro "large," "great," "extensive" + to "man" and "person."

Hlin 2 A Norse Goddess. ON: hlifa "to shelter" and "to protect." In the myths, she functions as a handmaiden of Frigg, but it has been speculated that in fact she represents an aspect of her.

Hlodyn Y Another name for Erda. ON: H16\$yn-"the Earth"; she is almost certainly one and the same with the Germanic Goddess Hludana. Hludana's name is preserved in a number of inscriptions from the second and third centuries. The ultimate etymology is unknown.

Hnoss Y One of the daughters of the Goddess Freya and her consort Odr. ON: hnoss "costly thing" and "ornament." Var: Hnossi.

Hoa 2 Vietnamese name-boa "flower," "bloom," and "blossom."

Hodierna y Latin: hodiernus "of today." A medieval name. Why it should have come into use isn't entirely clear. It occurs in Latin collects-a type of standard prayer used in Christianity-but may simply have been bestowed with the sense of "(born) today." Possibly it was used for a baby girl who was not expected to survive; such children were often baptized immediately after birth. Var: Hodiern, Odierna, Odiern. Bearers: Hodierna of Jerusalem, Countess of Tripoli (c.1110-c.1164); Hodierna (fl. 1157-89), wet-nurse of King Richard I.

Holda Y Also called Frau Holle, Frau Hulde, and Frau HULDA, Frau Holda is a figure from German folklore who presides over spinning, childbirth, and children, and is connected with springs, lakes, and wells. She is also said to be responsible for snow (she is said to be shaking the feathers from her bed when it's snowing-a close parallel to the Cailleach's winter activities), and has strong links to Yule and winter in general. In medieval times she was strongly associated with Witches, and was said to fly through the air with a host of Witches in her train; in Middle Dutch, the Milky Way was dubbed "Frau Hulde's highway." Almost certainly, Frau

Holda represents the survival of a Pagan Goddess, and has been linked with Herodias, Diana, Hecate, Frige, and Nicevenn, among others. There are particularly strong parallels with Dame Habonde. The origin of the name Holda is not entirely clear; it is probably cognate with Hulda, but possibly HLODYN. It has also been suggested that Holda may represent a separate Goddess, deriving from OG: *hu46 "graciousness" and "mercy"-or that Holda itself comes from this source, and that it was once an epithet or title of some other Goddess. 19th C.

Holden a English surname, from Holden, Lancashire. OE: hol "hollow" + denu "valley." 17th C. Bearers: Holden Caulfield, anti-hero of J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951).

Holly 2 The Holly is one of the most sacred of all trees. In the Celtic tradition, the Holly King presides over the half of the year when days are shortening and winter drawing in. Six months apart at the Solstices, the Holly King and the Oak King do battle. The outcome is always the same-but that does not make it any less symbolic; they are the two sides of the same coin, together embodying the timeless circle of birth and death and the life force of Nature flowing from season to season and year to year, even through the winter dormancy. Vestiges of this tradition can be found in Irish and Welsh literature, testifying to its antiquity. Holly features in the Ogham as Tinne. It is a tree strongly associated with birth, reincarnation, immortality, and sacrifice. The popular Christmas carol "The Holly and the Ivy" has strong Pagan overtones; Christianity took over the symbols of the eternal-immortal-regenerative forces of Nature, the masculine Holly and feminine Ivy, to symbolize its understanding of eternal life. The interpretation and emphasis may be different, but they are the same in essence. Ruled by Saturn and the element Fire, the holly is used magically for protection and good fortune. In the past, the berries were used in folk-remedies, despite being poisonous. The leaves are still used for bronchial conditions, including influenza and rheumatism. The word "holly" derives from the older hollin < OE: holen; it is cognate with the Welsh CELYN. There is a surname Holly, which was first used for someone who lived by a holly. First examples as a given name date to the eighteenth century-but as a male name, this represents the surname; it was still sometimes found as a middle name for boys in the late nineteenth century,

after Holly had come into general use for girls. Var: Hollie, Holli (mod). Bearers: Holly Hunter (b. 1958), the American actress; Holly Robbie (b. 1944), the American artist and writer, creator of her namesake character; Holly Golightly, the main character in Truman Capote's novella *Breakfast at T/ant's* (1958) and the 1961 film of the same name; Holly Short, a fairy character in Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl* novels (2001-).

Homa Y Persian name-homa, the name of a mythical bird, often called the "huma bird" in English. It is sometimes translated as "phoenix"-and in some versions, it does die in flames to be born anew from the ashes-but it is clear that it is a separate creature. Its principal characteristic is the fact it spends all its life in the air, unseen by the human eye. It is considered to be very auspicious.

Homer cc English form of Greek Homeros < homeros "hostage." The name has become so strongly associated in many people's minds with the character of Homer Simpson of the American television animated series *The Simpsons* (1989-) that they forget-or don't even know-that the original Homer was a legendary Greek bard, credited with the composition of two cornerstones of Western literature, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. Exactly who this Homer was and whether he really existed-is unknown. Certainly all evidence suggests that the two epics were the product of the oral poetry tradition, which is a feature of all Indo-European cultures, but by the sixth century BCE, they had been written down and were attributed to Homer. 16th C.

Homily Y Old French: omelie < L/Gr: homilia "discourse," homily was first used in the fourteenth century to mean "sermon." Later it acquired the broader sense of "serious counsel" and "moralizing lecture." Bearers: *Homily Clock*, one of the borrowers in Mary Norton's *Borrowers* series of children's books (1955-82).

Honesty 2 Honesty is both the name of an abstract quality and a plant. Honesty, the plant, has the Latin name *Lunaria* and is governed by the Moon and the element of Earth. It is best known for its transparent, silvery round seed pods, which has led to its other names of "Money Plant" and

"Silver Dollar." It has therefore unsurprisingly long been associated with prosperity and finance, and is used in magic to attract money.'Though there are a few examples of Honest as a male name in past centuries, Honesty's use as a name is almost entirely twentieth-century.

Honey Y The Roman poet Virgil, writing in the Georgics in the first century BCE, called honey "the celestial gift of the air," which sums up well the ancient attitude toward it. Its golden, sun-like color, and the fact it was made by creatures that flew, ensured its association with the sun and the Gods; and as such it is symbolic of immortality-along with sweetness, fertility, richness, and bounty.'The word has a long history in the Germanic languages, being traced back to Old Teutonic: *huna(n)go'. Honey has also been used as a term of endearment since the Middle Ages, which even gave rise to a surname. 17th C. Bearers: Honey Wilkes, a character in *Gone with the Wind*.

Honeysuckle Y Few scents are so redolent of summer than that of honeysuckle, with its exotically beautiful blooms. Symbolic of sweetness of temperament, and affection, its name combines HONEY-signifying both its sweet scent and its popularity with honey bees-with OE: siigan "to suck."The word has been in use since at least the thirteenth century, though originally it was applied to the red clover. Ruled by Mercury and the element Earth, it is associated with both Cancer and Leo. It is used magically to enhance psychic powers, to attract money, and for protection; it has also long been used to avert evil spirits. In the past, the leaves were made into a mouthwash for ulcers, and the flowers used in a preparation drunk as an aperitif to aid digestion; it has been used in herbal medicines for a whole variety of complaints from arthritis to chicken pox. Early 20th C. Bearers: Honeysuckle Weeks (b. 1979), a British actress.

Honor ? Latin: honos "honor." Var: Honour. 16th C. Bearers: Honor Blackman (b. 1925), a British actress.

Honora Y Honora was not uncommon in the Middle Ages. It became particularly established in Ireland, but fell out of use to a large extent in Britain after the Middle Ages, being mostly replaced by HONOR. Honorata-the name of a saint-is also found in the thirteenth century, but was largely absorbed by Honora over time. Revived 19th C. Var: Onora,

Annora, Armor (hist). Dim: NORA. Jr Ga: Onora. Honore French name, deriving from Latin Honoratus "honored." It was the name of a fourth-/fifth-century French saint who is still venerated in France. Fem: Honoree.

Honorina 2 Technically speaking, Honorina is the feminine form of HONORIUS-but it has only ever been used as a variant of HONORA. Bearers: St. Honorina, one of the third-century companions of the legendary (closer to mythical) St. Ursula; Justa Grata Honorina (fl. 450 CE), the niece of the Emperor Honorius and sister of the Emperor Valentinian III; Honorina Glossop, a harridan in P. G. Wodehouse's Jeeves novels (1915-74); Honorina, Lady Dedlock, one of the main protagonists in Dickens's Bleak House (1852-53).

Honorius c~ Roman gens, deriving from L: honos "honor." It is only found from the Imperial period. One (Christian) Roman emperor bore the name-Flavius Honorius (384- 423 CE), son of Theodosius. The name was also borne by a number of popes and more than one saint. Even though one of these was from Canterbury, the name has been little used in Britain, and what use there has been was from the late sixteenth century, when the emperor rather than one of the saints was probably the inspiration. Port: Honbrius. Bearers: Honorius, an afrit in Jonathan Stroud's Bartimaeus series (2003-5).

Hope Y One of the abstract nouns adopted as a given name by the Puritans in the sixteenth century, especially with Faith and/or Charity for siblings-particularly twins and triplets.

Horace c~ English form of HORATIUS. The Roman poet Quintus Horatius Flaccus (65-27 BCE) is usually called Horace, and it is in his honor that the name has been used since the sixteenth century. Bearers: Horace Goodspeed, a character on the American television drama Lost (2004-10); Horace Slughorn, a wizard and teacher in the Harry Potter series. Horace (1640) was also a play by Pierre Corneille, while Horace (1840) was a novel by George Sand.

Horatia 2 Feminine form of HORATIUS. 17th C. Bearers: Horatia Nelson (1801-81), the daughter of Horatio, Lord Nelson by Emma, Lady Hamilton.

Horatio e Italian form of HORATIUS. 16th C. Bearers: Horatio, Lord Nelson (1758-1805), the British admiral; Horatio Hornblower, hero of the Hornblower novels (1937- 67) by C. S. Forester.

Horatius c' The name of a famous Roman gens. Its meaning is obscure; it resembles L: Nora "hour," but is unlikely to be derived from it. Most likely it was Etruscan in origin and the meaning is lost. 17th C. Bearers: Publius Horatius Cocles (fl. 505 BCE), famous for single-handedly warding off the Etruscan army, while the bridge he guarded was destroyed; he lived to tell the tale (or so the story goes).

Horsa c? The name of the legendary Anglo-Saxon mercenary who, with his brother Hengist, is credited with leading the Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain. OE: hors "horse." 19th C. Bearers: Horsa, a main character in the 1964 film Carry On Cleo.

Horse c~ Y The word "horse" has featured as a name in many languages as a recognizable element for thousands of years; in Greek a hippos in the name was a sign of nobility, even royalty. Meirchion from meirch "horses" features a number of times in Welsh myth and early history. In the tongue of those who first bestowed it, Rose was once Horse, not to mention those legendary Anglo-Saxons Horsa "horse" and his brother Hengist "stallion." But it is testimony to the sad state of Western attitudes to animals that the horse, which in so many cultures is an animal revered for its nobility, intelligence, strength, and stamina, symbolic also of the land and travel, is considered unworthy now for use as a name, reduced to nickname status only, largely regarding the size of a person's nose-or other part of the anatomy. To the Celts, the horse was a symbol of the Goddess herself. Epona is Goddess of horses, Rhiannon and Etain her counterparts in later Welsh and Irish mythology. The importance of the horse is revealed to all in Celtic and Saxon art, not least the great chalk horse carved into the hillside at Uffington, Oxfordshire. In Native American tradition, the horse first and foremost symbolizes power-both physical and spiritual-and also wisdom. Examples exist of Horse as a given name from the nineteenth century.

Hortensia Y Feminine form of Hortensius, the name of a Roman gens. The etymology isn't entirely clear, but it is probably related to L: hortus "garden." Hortensia (fl. 42 BCE) was a Roman woman famous for speaking

against an attempt by Octavian, Mark Antony, and Lepidus to tax Rome's richest women to fund their campaign against Brutus, Cassius, and their supporters in the civil war which followed the murder of Julius Caesar in 44 BCE. She is responsible for the name's use since the seventeenth century. Fr: Hortense, It: Ortensia. Bearers: Hortensia Mancini, Duchess of Mazarin (1646-99), whom King Charles II wanted to marry while in exile in France in the 1650s, and who was briefly his mistress in the 1670s.

Horus c~ The Greek form of Hor, the name of one of the most important of all the Egyptian Gods. Regarded as the personal God of the reigning pharaoh, a God of light, law, and war-among many other attributes-Horus is the son of Isis and the resurrected Osiris, although the details surrounding him change over time. The image of Isis holding the baby Horus is largely accepted as being the source of the image of Mary with the baby Jesus reproduced so frequently by Christian iconographers since ancient times. 19th C. Var: Heru, Har.

Hoshi Y Japanese name-hoshi "star." Hoshiko combines hoshi and ko "child."

Houri Y In Islamic legend, a houri is a beautiful nymph who dwells in the Muslim paradise. Ar: hawira "to be blackeyed like a gazelle."

Howard 5' English surname, deriving from more than one source. OG: Howard-hoh "high" or "chief" + wart "guard" or "warden"; introduced by the Normans, it had a Norse cognate-Haward. OG: Huguhard-hugu "heart" + hardu "hard"; this was introduced by the Normans in the French form Huard. OE: eowu "ewe" and hierde "herd." The Howard family were a powerful force in Tudor politics; Catherine Howard (c. 1521-1542) became Henry VIII's ill-fated fifth queen, and his second wife, the famous Anne Boleyn, was the daughter of Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter of the second Duke of Norfolk. 17th C. Dim: How, Howie, WARD. Bearers: Howard Carter (1874-1939), the English archaeologist; H. (Howard) P. Lovecraft (1890-1937), the American science-fiction and fantasy novelist. Howard Roark is the principal character in Ayn Rand's The Fountainhead (1943).

Hrist Y One of the Valkyries. ON: hrista "to shake." Var: Rist.

Huath Y ' The Ogham name for the hawthorn. It represents the sixth month of the Celtic calendar, from May 13 until June 9.

Hubert c~ English form of Old German Huguberht- hugu "heart" + berht. It was introduced by the Normans. The French St. Hubert was popular in Normandy and Britain in the Middle Ages. Come the seventeenth century, Hubert's use was reinforced by the adoption of the surname derived from it, and it was revived fully in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Hubert Turvy, a character in Terry Pratchett's Discworld series (1983-).

Hudibras e The name of a legendary king of Britain listed by Geoffrey of Monmouth. In full, his name was Rud Hud Hudibras, and he is one and the same as the Welsh Rhun Baladr Bras-W: baladr "staff" or "stave" + bras "thick" and "fat." He was also known as Rhun Rhudd Baladr-Rhun "the Red Staff." "Hudibras" (1663-78) is a poem by Samuel Butler.

Hudson c? English surname-"son of Hudd." Hudd and Hudde were medieval short-forms of both HUGH and RICHARD. The Hudson River is famous as the river which flows through New York, dividing New York City from New Jersey. It was named after the English explorer Henry Hudson (d. aft. 1611). 17th C.

Hugh c~ English form of the Germanic Hugi < OG: hugu "heart." It may have originally been a short form of the names which began with the element. Brought to the British Isles by the Normans, it swiftly established itself as one of the most popular names of the Middle Ages; in Ireland it was used to render Gaelic names such as Aodh and Eoghan. Var: HUGO; How, Huchon, Huon (hist). Dim: Hudd, Hudde (hist); Hughie, Hughey. Dut, Ger: Hugo; Fr: Hugues, W: Huw. Bearers: Hugh Grant (b. 1960) and Hugh Laurie (b. 1959)-both British actors; Hugh Jackman (b. 1968), the Australian actor; Hugh, a Borg character in the American television science-fiction series Star Trek: The Next Generation (1987-94).

Hughina 2 Scottish feminine form of HUGH. 19th C.

Hugo c~ Latin form of HUGH, which is also the usual German and Dutch form of the name. It was much used in Latin documents in the Middle Ages and Early Modern periods, but not in everyday use until the eighteenth

century. Bearers: Hugo Weaving (b. 1960), the British actor; Hugo "Hurley" Reyes, a character in the American television drama *Lost* (2004-10); Hugo Weasley, son of Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter series.

Hulda Y Old Norse: hulda "cover" and "veil"-but also "secrecy"; Fran Holle (see Holda) is sometimes called Mother Hulda in English. The name was popular in Scandinavia in the nineteenth century and taken to America by emigrants, where it spread to the rest of the ESW, possibly because of its similarity to Hilda. Cesar Franks opera *Hulda* (1894) also promoted the name.

Huldah y Biblical name. Heb: huldah "rat," "mole," "polecat," and "bobcat." 16th C. Var: HULDA.

Humbert c? Old German: Hunnen "Hun" (the name of the famous tribe noted for their warriors, which gives its name to Hungary) + berht. It was introduced by the Normans, but didn't survive. Revived 19th C. It. Umberto. Bearers: Umberto Eco (b. 1932), the Italian novelist; Humbert Humbert, central character of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* (1955).

Humility y Latin: humilitas "humility," "humbleness," and "meekness." One of the seventeenth-century Puritan names.

Humphrey g A name of both Germanic and AngloSaxon origins; Old English Hunfrith, composed of Hune "a Hun" + frib "peace"-was reinforced after the Norman Conquest by its Germanic cognate Hunfrid. Var: Umfrey, Hunfray (hist); Humfrey. Bearers: Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester (c. 1390-1447), son of King Henry IV; Humphrey Bogart (1899-1957), the American actor; Sir Humphrey Appleby, a character in the British sitcoms *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister* (1980-88).

Humwe c~ Shona: humwe "co-operator"-it is used of someone who works with others to achieve a common goal.

Hunt e English surname. OE: hunta "hunter." The English word "hunt" is related to a Gothic word meaning "to chase" and "to capture," as well as an Old High German one meaning "booty." From early in human history,

hunting played a vital part in human survival and development, and among tribal peoples of the past it became imbued with ritual and symbolism. After the development of agriculture and animal husbandry, it gradually became more of a pastime, culminating in the grotesque hunts of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, particularly in Africa, where killing had become a "sport" and its goal the collection of "trophies." Many Gods and Goddesses are associated with hunting across societies: Artemis, Diana, Cernunnos, Herne, Arawn, Gwyn, Herla, and Skadi to name just a few. The concept of the Wild Hunt is found across central and northern Europe, a supernatural hunt, taking place in the late fall and winter, led by a God and with a host of supernatural beings galloping across the skies. 20th C.

Hunter cc' English surname. ME: huntere "a hunter." 17th C.

Hunydd Y Old Welsh name of uncertain etymology. Possibly, it derives from W. huan "sun." The name of a sweetheart of the twelfth-century soldier and poet, Hywel ap Owain.

Hupi Y cc Shona: hupi "bulb (of a plant)." In Finnish, hupi means "fun"-it can also mean "useless" in Quechua.

Hyacinth Y a Greek: huakinthos "hyacinth." The second element resembles anthos "flower" but the first is unknown. In Greek mythology, Hyacinth was a youth loved by Apollo, who accidentally killed him when throwing a discus. The hyacinth sprang from the drops of his blood. As a result, the plant was held sacred to Apollo. Ruled by Venus and the element of Water, the plant's magical associations are love, protection, and happiness. In the language of flowers, however, the hyacinth has various meanings depending on its color, but in general it symbolizes rashness and sorrow. In ancient times, hyacinth was also the name of a precious stone, and the word's first use in English is actually as the name of the stone, rather than a flower. In Roman times, slave owners often gave their slaves the names of figures from mythology and Hyacinth was popular-perhaps accounting for there being more than one saint of the name. This in turn led to the name's use in some countries from the Middle Ages. It wasn't used in the ESW, however, until the seventeenth century, when the mythological Hyacinth was probably the source of inspiration. Its use as a girl's name dates only to the end of the eighteenth century, becoming exclusively female by the

nineteenth. Var: JACINTH; Hyacintha Y. It: Giacinto c ; Giacinta Y, Fr: Hyacinthe, Port, Sp: Jacinto e; Jacinta Y. Bearers: Hyacinth Bucket, the social-climbing snob in the British television comedy Keeping Up Appearances (1990-95).

Hygeia Y Greek Goddess of health. Gr: hugeia "good health." Said to be a daughter of Asclepius, Hygeia is essentially a personification of good health. 19th C. Var: Hygieia.

Hypatia Y The name of a female Greek Neo-Platonic philosopher, who was murdered by a Christian mob in 415 CE. As early as the seventh century, John, Bishop of Nikiu, a Christian chronicler, was calling Hypatia a Witch, thereby justifying (in his view) her murder. In 1843, the German scholars Soldan and Heppé said Hypatia was essentially the first known "Witch" to be punished according to the penalty laid down for Witchcraft by Constantius II in the fourth century. The man probably behind her death, Cyril of Alexandria, went on to become a saint. Gr: hupatos "highest" and "best"; it was sometimes used as a word for a God-for example in the phrase hupatos tis "some God above"-thus it could be interpreted as meaning "of a God" or "belonging to a God." Early 19th C. The publication of Charles Kingsley's Hypatia (1853) did much to make it better known. Hypatia's story featured in the 2009 Spanish film Agora.

Hypericon c Anglicized form of huperikon, the Greek name for St. John's wort, from which its Latin name hypericum derives. It is sometimes derived from huper "above" and ereike "heath" or "heather," but it seems more likely to be from HYPERION. Hypericon is often used as the name for the essential oil and homeopathic remedies.

Hyperion cc One of the Titans-the original Greek God of the sun. Gr: huper "above"; the -ion is sometimes interpreted as being from the verb eimi "to go," thus "he who goes above," but it may simply be a suffix, and the name mean "(the God) above." 19th C.

Hyssop c? Y Greek: hussopos "hyssop" < Hebrew ezob, a plant which features more than once in the Bible. Hyssop has been used for purification and protection since ancient times-even in the language of flowers it stands for the warding away of evil spirits and cleanliness. Governed by Jupiter

and Cancer, hyssop is a Fire herb, with numerous medicinal properties; internally it is used as an expectorant as well as to reduce inflammation and lower a fever, externally for cuts and bruises. Hyssop tea has long been a folk-remedy for chest complaints and as a vermifuge. It is used as a flavoring in Chartreuse, and was formally used in cooking, though less so nowadays because it has such a strong flavor. In medieval times, it was one of the herbs used to strew a floor, and is a particular favorite of bees and butterflies. 19th C.

Hywel cc Old Welsh name, and one which just about managed to cling on in use in the early modern period until the Celtic Revival at the end of the nineteenth century. It is often said to mean "eminent" but this is only half the story. CC: *su- "good" + *welo- "to see"; houel in Middle Welsh actually meant "visible"-thus only eminent in the sense it could be seen. It has been suggested that it was originally bestowed as a byname for someone who was open or forthright. Anglicized as Howel or Howell. Var: Houel, Huwal (hist); Hoel. Breton: Huwal, Huwel, Houuel, Howael. Bearers: Hywel Dda (d. 950), "Hywel the Good"-a celebrated ruler of Wales; Hywel ab Owen (fl. 1143-71), "the Poet Prince" of Gwynedd.

la 2 The name of a Cornish saint, said to have sailed across the sea from Ireland to Cornwall on a leaf. Her name is probably a Latinized form of IVE or perhaps relates to W: id "ice" < CC: *yeg-V- "ice," or *yewo-"yew."

Iacchus e An obscure Greek God often identified with Dionysus or Zagreus and worshipped in the Eleusinian Mysteries. He is possibly a God of agriculture. Some believe he is simply the personification of the cry "Iacche!" uttered during some of the Eleusinian processions, which derives from the proto-Greek *FiFakhd "to shout"-cognate with BACCHUS.

Iago c? Usually regarded as a Welsh and Spanish-specifically Galician-form of JACOB. It is possible, however, that the Welsh has a separate Celtic origin; one of the earliest recorded bearers was Iago ap Beli, father of Cadfan of Gwynedd in the sixth century-called Jago by Geoffrey of Monmouth. It may derive from CC: *yeg-V- "ice," source of modern Welsh id. Two kings of Gwynedd also bore the name in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Iago returned to use in Wales in the nineteenth century. Var: Yago.

Ian c~ Ian is an Anglicization of Iain, a Scottish Gaelic form of JOHN, which has been used throughout the ESW since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Ian Fleming (1908- 64), the creator of James Bond; Sir Ian McKellen (b. 1939), the English actor; Ian Anderson (b. 1947), the Scottish musician of Jethro Tull (1967-); Ian Corrigan, the American Pagan musician, writer, and lecturer who has been active in the Pagan community since 1976.

Ianassa Y The name of one of the Nereids. The etymology isn't entirely certain; the second element is Gr: anassa "queen," but the first might be is "violets," is "one," or even IO. Var: Janassa.

Ianthe ? An Oceanid. Gr: is "violets" + anthos "flower." The name was used by pastoral poets from the seventeenth century-an early example is in the Siege of Rhodes (1656)but it was a bit of a favorite amongst early nineteenth century poets, occurring in Byron's Childe Harold's Pilgrimage

(1812), Shelley's Queen Mab (1813), and more than one poem by Walter Savage Landor. 19th C. Bearers: Ianthe Eliza Shelley (1813-76), daughter of the poet Shelley and his mistress Harriet Westbrook. Var: Iantha.

Ianto c~ Welsh pet-form of IFAN, IEUAN, or IAGO. Late 19th C. Var: Yanto. Ianto Jones was a character in the British science-fiction series Torchwood (2006-).

Iapetus c~ The name of one of the Titans, the father of Atlas, Epimetheus, and Prometheus among others. He is one of the Four Cosmic Pillars-the connection between Heaven and Earth. After Zeus and the other Olympians overthrew the Titans, he was imprisoned with the rest in Tartarus. The origin of the name is uncertain, but if Greek, it may be connected with Gr: iapto "to hurt," "to spoil," "to wound," or "to send forth." Var: Japetus.

Iarlaith e An Irish Gaelic name, the second element of which is flaith "sovereignty" and "ruler." The meaning of the first is uncertain. It may be 01: iar "after," far "west," iar "dark" or it may be cognate with W: for "lord." There is an obscure saint of Galway of the name. Anglicized as Jarlath. Var: Iarfhlaith (hist).

Iarlugh c~ Old Irish name borne by an obscure saint. It is possibly simply a variant of IARLAITH, or it may share the same first element as Iarlaith combined with LUGH.

Ibolya Y Hungarian name-ibolya "violet."

Icarus c? In Greek mythology, Icarus was the son of Daedalus, builder of the labyrinth, who contrived to escape their confinement on Crete by making wings out of feathers and wax. Being such a clever chap, it worked. Unfortunately, Icarus did not heed his father's advice on how to operate them, and flew too close to the sun. The wax melted and Icarus plunged to his death, giving his name in ancient times to that part of the Aegean into which he fell. The meaning of the name is not known; it is likely the name of the sea came first in a language that was probably pre-Greek, and Icarus developed to explain how it got its name much later. 20th C.

Ichabod c~ Obscure biblical name. Heb: "no glory" or "where is glory?"
16th C. Ichabod Crane is the main character of Washington Irving's short story *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (1820).

Ichamna Y c Lakota: icdmna "snow storm."

Ichiro a' Japanese name-ichi "one," "single," and "unity" + ro "man" and "son." Bearers: Ichiro Suzuki (b. 1973), the Japanese-born record-breaking baseball player.

Ida 2 A name introduced to Britain at the time of the Norman Conquest. Either ON: id "work," OG: id "work," or OG: itis "woman." Nor is it beyond the realms of possibility that it was connected to the Norse goddess IDHUNNA. In Ireland, it was used to render the Irish Gaelic name Idevar: Ita. The origins of this aren't entirely clear-options include 01: idu "birth pains" and ftu "thirst". Ida fell out of use in England by the end of the fourteenth century and was revived in the nineteenth, when the Greek nymph Ida and the mountain from which she took her name were probably as much the inspiration as the medieval name. According to one Greek myth, it was Ida who nursed the infant Zeus. There were in fact two Mount Idas-the one on which Zeus was raised, and a second in Asia Minor (modern Turkey), overlooking Troy. It was on the slopes of the second Mount Ida that Paris made his fateful judgment regarding the golden apple. Gr: ide and ida "woodland." Bearers: Ida Rubinstein (1885-1960), the Russian-born ballerina. Ida featured prominently in Tennyson's *The Princess* (1847) on which Gilbert and Sullivan based the operetta *Princess Ida* (1884).

Idho cc The Ogham name for the yew. In the Tree Calendar, it rules over the Winter Solstice.

Idhunna Y The name of the Norse Goddess of the spring. ON: id "work" and "labor" + unna "to love." Idhunna tends the apples of eternal youth which keep the Norse Gods young. Her name seems to have been used as a given name in areas ruled by the Vikings, and was possibly reinforced at the time of the Norman Conquest when it was reintroduced in the form Idonea. It probably acquired this form through the erroneous assumption made by medieval scribes that it derived from L: idoneus "suitable." Var:

Idhunnr, Idunnr, Idina, Idonia, Edonia, Ydonea (hist); Idony, Ideny, Edney, Edony.

Idnerth c' Old Welsh name-iud(d) "lord" + nerth "strength." It fell out of use in the Middle Ages but was revived at the end of the nineteenth century.

Idomeneus e The name of a king of Crete who fought at Troy but on his return home found his kingdom usurped, forcing him to make a fresh start in Southern Italy. Gr: idos "warmth" and "violent heat" + menos "might," "force," "strength," and "fierceness."

Idoya Y Basque name, bestowed in honor of the mysterious "Virgin of Idoya," who is worshipped at Isaba in Navarre. There is an old carving of her in the town's principal church (San Cipriano), and she has a hermitage all to herself on the outskirts. Basque: idoi "puddle" and "pool." Var: Idoia. 20th C. Idris c' Idris represents two distinct names with very different origins-Welsh and Arabic. The Arabic name-var: Idriss and Idries-derives from the verb darasa meaning "to study" or "to learn." It is the name of a prophet mentioned twice in the Qu'ran and usually identified with the biblical Enoch. The Welsh name derives from MW: iud(d) "lord," but the second element is uncertain. It may be gres "passion," "warmth," and "zeal." Idris Gawr "the Giant" was a legendary seventh-century Welsh giant and magician, who gave his name to Caer Idris "Idris's Fort," a well-known mountain in Snowdonia. 19th C. Bearers: Idries Shah (1924-96), the prominent Sufi author, friend and associate of both Gerald Gardner and Robert Graves.

Idwal a Old Welsh: iud(d) "lord" + gwal "ruler," this is an Old Welsh name with probably even older Celtic antecedents. In the form Idvalllo, Geoffrey of Monmouth listed it as the name of the one of the legendary kings of Britain. Idwal Foel was a tenth-century king of Gwynedd. The variant Idwallon was borne by another tenth-century Welsh prince. Judwal, the Cornish and Breton form, is the name of a Cornish saint and Breton king. Revived 19th C.

Iestyn c? The Welsh form of JUSTIN, and the name of a sixth-century Welsh saint. The late eleventh-century Iestyn ap Gwrgant was the last

independent ruler of Glamorgan. Var: Iestin, Yestin. It survived as late as the seventeenth century. Revived early 20th C.

Ieuan G~ A Welsh form of JOHN, in use until the sixteenth century. Revived late 19th C.

Ifan c The principal Welsh form of JOHN. Ifan-in the Anglicized form EVAN-is one of the most familiar Welsh names, and Evans is one of the commonest Welsh surnames. Unlike many Welsh names or Welsh forms of names, Evan weathered the centuries and has remained in constant use right up to the present. Fem: Hanna, Ifanwy (mod).

Ife Y e Nigerian name. Yoruba: ife "affection" and "love." It is often found as a short form for names containing ife as an element, such as Ifedayo-ife + d- "to turn" + ayo "joy" i.e. "love has turned to joy."

Ifor c? The origins of Ifor are not entirely clear. It is often said to be the Welsh form of the Norse IVARR, but the name is borne by an early fifth-century saint, which is much too early for the name to be Norse, and suggests its roots must be Celtic. The most plausible option is CC: *eburo "yew." The Breton word for "yew" is evor, although efwr- which is how the word survives in modern Welsh-now means "hogweed" and "cow parsnip." There is also the Irish Gaelic name EBER, which is almost certainly cognate. Ifor lasted well into the Middle Ages. Revived 19th C-often in the Anglicized version Ivor. Ivor the Engine (1959, 1975-77) was a British children's television program.

Ignatius e The usual form in later times of Egnatius, the name of a Roman gens. Its spelling was altered due to a mistaken belief that it derived from L: ignis "fire." Its true origin and meaning are not known, though it is believed to be Etruscan. St. Ignatius was an early second-century martyr who is mostly celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Church, although the name also became established in Spain at an early date in the forms Ignacio and Inigo. The Spanish saint Ignatius de Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, was responsible for the spread of the name to other Catholic lands. In England, it was taken up by a few Catholic families in the sixteenth century, mostly in the forms Ignatius and Inigo. Inigo is also used in Wales, perhaps because it has a Welsh flavor, bearing a strong resemblance to other Welsh

names such as Iago, Ianto, and Iolo. Var: JENICO. Fem: Ignatia. Cro: Ignac, Hun: Ignac, Fr: Ignace, Ger: Ignatz, It: Ignazio. Bearers: Inigo Jones (1573-1652), the Welsh-born architect-he was named after his father and always signed himself Enego.

Igor c? The Russian form of INGVAR, which was introduced to Russia by Viking traders in the ninth century. The name has probably been tarnished forever in the ESW by its over-use in B-movie horrors. Early 20th C.

Igraine Y The name of King Arthur's mother. It is almost certainly Celtic in origin, and probably from CC: *r-gan "queen." Var: Ygraine. 20th C.

Ijuba y Ndebele and Zulu: tuba "dove" and "pigeon."

Iker e Basque name-iker "visitation." Invented in the late nineteenth century as the Basque equivalent of Spanish girl's name Visitacion, a name which refers to the biblical tale of the Virgin Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth.

Ikhaya y Zulu and Xhosa: ikhaya "home." Var: Amakhaya.

Ilan cc Modern Hebrew name-ilan "tree." The use of the feminine form Ilana has almost certainly been influenced by names such as Helena, Elena, and Ilona.

Ilbert a' Old German: Hildeberht-hilta "battle" + berht. Ilbert, the French form of the name, was introduced to Britain by the Normans. It died out before the end of the Middle Ages, but was popular enough beforehand to give rise to surnames such as Ilbert and Hilbert. Revived 19th C.

Ileana Y Romanian name, possibly deriving from HELENA. It also bears a striking resemblance to the Hungarian ILONA. Ileana Cosanzeana features in a Romanian folk-tale about a beautiful princess from whose mouth pearls and gold pour when she sings. She is captured by a monster called a Zmeu, but rescued by the knight Fat-Frumos.

Ildiko Y A Hungarian name of uncertain origin. It may possibly be derived from HILDA. Dim: Ildi, Ildo.

Ilia 2 Another name for Rhea Silvia, mother of Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome. It probably derives from Ilium, a poetic name for Troy, as Rhea Silvia descended from Aeneas the Trojan. Ilium itself is almost certainly a corruption of Luwiya, the Hittite name of the region of Asia Minor where Troy lay, and which is probably an older form of LYDIA. 20th C.

Ilinca y Romanian name. The feminine of Ilie, the Romanian form of ELIAS. Cro, Serb: Ilinka.

Ilkkay Y cc Turkish name-ilk "first" and "new" + ay "moon."

Ilknur y Turkish name-ilk "first" + nur "light."

Marion G~ Russian form of the Greek Hilarion, an elaboration of HILARY. It was borne by a saint venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church who is especially revered in Russia.

Illtud c~ Welsh: ill "many" or "multitude" + tud "people." A name borne by an early sixth-century saint, said to have come from Brittany, who founded a college at Llantwit St. Major (Llanilltud in Welsh), where both St. David and Gildas the Monk supposedly studied. Illtud was also said to have introduced the plough to Wales, which is, of course-regardless of the truth or otherwise of the other tales about him-complete and utter nonsense. Late 19th C.

Ilona Y Hungarian name. It is generally derived from HELENA. Dim: Ili, Ilka, Ilonka.

Ilma y Finnish name-ilma "air" and "weather."

May Finnish name-i/ta "evening" and "night."

Ilya c? The Russian form of ELIAS. Sometimes spelled I11ya. It was made well known in the 1960s by the character of Illya Kuryakin in the American television series The Man from UN.C.L.E.(1964-68).

Iman Y ' Arabic name-iman "faith."

Imani Y Deriving from the Arabic IMAN, this is the word for faith used in Swahili and adopted by AfricanAmericans as the name of the Seventh Principle of Kwanzaa, the festival which arose in the 1960s to celebrate AfricanAmerican heritage.

Imbert e Introduced into England by the Normans, Imbert derived from Old German Isenbard, a combination of OG: can "iron" + the folk-name BARD. Isembert is also found in the Middle Ages, but the name fell out of use in Britain by the end of the fourteenth century. It survived in France, however, and returned to use in the ESW in the nineteenth. Var: Isambard. Bearers: Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-59), the English engineer.

Imbrasia Y Epithet of Artemis and Hera, deriving from the name of the River Imbrasus on the island of Samos. The river probably derives its name from the same source as Gr: ombros "storm," cognate with L: imber "shower of rain." Imbrasia is also the name of a genus of moth. Var: Imbraia.

Imelda Y Spanish and Italian name, from the German Irmhilde. OG: ermen "strong" and "whole" + hilta "battle." Imelda Lambertini of Bologna was a fourteenth-century saint whose popularity ensured the name's use among Catholics, though it wasn't until the nineteenth century that the name was taken up in the ESW, especially in Ireland. Bearers: Imelda Marcos (b. 1930)-infamous for her enormous collection of shoes-the widow of the former Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos; Imelda Staunton (b. 1957), the AngloIrish actress.

Imogen Y Imogen first made its appearance in William Shakespeare's Cymbeline, probably as a misreading of Innogen, the form of the name in earlier versions of the legend. The name is first recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth in the eleventh century. It almost certainly derives from O1: ingen "daughter" and "girl," which occurs in an earlier Ogham inscription as Inigena. Late 19th C. Bearers: Imogen Holst (1907-84), the British composer and daughter of Gustav Hoist; Imogen Stubbs (b. 1961), a British actress.

Imp c3' Y Old English: impa "young shoot" (of a plant or tree), "sapling," and "scion." It later was used to mean "child," and for some reason, in the

sixteenth century, took on the meaning of "child of the Devil." In the seventeenth, this became even more specific; imps were "little demons" and "wicked spirits" with whom Witches were said to be familiar. From the seventeenth century, the word's fortunes began to change again, and "imp" began to be used to mean simply a "mischievous child." Today, it is mostly used in this sense, or as the name of a type of supernatural being. 20th C.

Impey cc Y English surname. OE: *imphaga "sapling enclosure"-used of someone who dwelt near such a place. 19th C. Var: Impie, Impy.

Impi ? Finnish name-impi "maiden" and "nymph."

Imre c~ Hungarian name. It either derives from HENRY or the German Emmerich-the equivalent of AMERY.'The Hungarian St. Imre is called Emmerich in German, Emetic or Emerick in English (both also variants of Amery), and Henricus (the Latin form of Henry) in Latin.

Ina 2 Mostly, Ina is a nineteenth-century pet-form of names ending in -ina, such as Wilhelmina and Rosina, taken up as an independent name. It may also have evolved, or at the very least been considered, a variant of ENA; the two names came into use in England about the same time. Ina does exist, however, as the name of two Irish saints and the name of an obscure Welsh one.'The Welsh one is said to have been the daughter of Ceredig-the legendary founder of Ceredigion (Cardiganshire)-and gives her name to Llanina. Its origins are uncertain; it may derive from W: an "one."The Irish Inas are probably variants of AINE, ANU, UNA-or just plain AGNES. Whatever the origin, Ina was not used as a given name in historic times in either Wales or Ireland until the nineteenth century. In Yoruba, ina means "fire."

Inanna 2 The name of the Sumerian Goddess equated with ISHTAR. As early as the third millennium BCE, her name was interpreted as deriving from the Sumerian nin "lady" + an "sky," but this may well be an example of a very early fanciful etymology, and its true meaning may be thoroughly lost to time. Late 20th C. Var: Inana, Innanna, Innin, Ninanna, Ninni.

Incense 2 c~ Latin: incensum "that which is set on fire" < incendo "to set on fire." Incense is the name given to a gum or mix which gives off an

aromatic smell when burnt and is used for purification before and during rituals in many religions. It is also used as a devotional offering and meditative aid. Late 20th C.

Indah Y Indonesian and Malaysian name. Indonesian/ Malay: indah "beautiful," "lovely," and "precious."

India Y The country, which takes its name from the River INDUS. 19th C. India Wilkes is a character in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*.

Indiana 2 c~ The name of the American state, deriving from the English adjective "Indian," by which Native Americans were once universally known. It makes an appearance as a girl's name at the surprisingly early date of 1796 in *Camilla*, a novel by British writer Fanny Burney. It was used as a genuine given name in America from at least the early nineteenth century. It also features in Edith Wharton's *The Custom of the Country* (1913). The Indiana Jones films have meant it is also considered a boy's name, although the character's real name is Henry.

Indigo Y a' Greek: indikon "Indian dye" < indikos "of INDIA." The name of the rich purple color on the edge of the light spectrum visible to the naked eye. There is a belief current in many circles that many of today's children, born in, or on the cusp, of a New Age, are spiritually more evolved and the term "Indigo Children" is often used to describe them, referring to the aura which such children emanate. 20th C.

Indira Y Sanskrit: indira beauty" and "splendor." A name of the Goddess Lakshmi. Bearers: Indira Gandhi (1917-84), former President of India.

Indra e 'The name of a Hindu sky God responsible for the rain. San: ind- "a drop" + ra- "possessing," hence "possessing drops (of rain)." His name is often used to mean "lord," especially in names.

Indraja y Lithuanian Goddess of the planet Jupiter; she is one of the daughters of the Goddess Saule.

Indus G~ The name of one of the great rivers of the Indian subcontinent, which gives India her name. It is also the name of a constellation. Gr: Indus

"the Indus" < San: sindhu "river," "flood," "sea," and "ocean." The Indus Valley civilization flourished between 3300 and 1300 BCE.

Inez Y Anglicized form of Ines, the Spanish form of AGNES. 19th C. Inez (1855) is a novel by Augusta Jane Evans.

Infinity 2 French: infinite < L: infinitas "endlessness" and "boundlessness." Late 20th C. Var: Infinite.

Inge The name of a Norse fertility God. The meaning is unknown. Var: Ingvi.

Ingaret Y Medieval variant of ANCHORET, itself the Anglicized form of ANGHARAD. Revived 19th C. Var: Ingaretta.

Ingeborg y Scandinavian name. ON: ING + borg "fortification." Dim: Inga, Inge.

Ingemar C? Scandinavian name. ON: ING + merr "famous." Var: Ingmar.

Ingenius c~ According to Geoffrey of Monmouth, Ingenius was the name of one of the legendary kings of Britain. Possibly the name represents the Latinized form of a Celtic name-perhaps one relating to IMOGEN. Alternatively, Geoffrey might simply have invented it, perhaps from L: ingenium "natural disposition" or ingeniosus "naturally clever."

Ingram c Ingram was introduced to Britain by the Normans in the Medieval French form Ingelram. The second element is OG: hraben "raven," the first is disputed; it may be OG: angil "angel" or represent Ingil, a diminutive of ING. Use from the seventeenth century was supplemented by the surname derived from it. Var: Enguerran (hist).

Ingrid ? Scandinavian name, used in Britain during the Viking period, and reintroduced in the nineteenth century. ON: ING + friar "fair" and "beautiful," or rida "ride"-a reference to the golden boar which Ing rode once a year; the boar's tusks tore up the Earth in a symbolic first plowing. Var: Ingerith (hist). Dim: Inga, Inge (Scand). Bearers: Ingrid Bergman (1915-82), the Swedish-born actress; Ingrid Ylva (c. 1180s-c. 1251-52),

grandmother of King Valdemar of Sweden, portrayed in folklore and legend as a Witch, though positively, for a change.

Ingvar e Scandinavian name. ON: ING + varr "careful" or arr "warrior."
Var: Ingvarr, Yngvar.

Inkosi cc Ndebele, Xhosa, and Zulu: inkosi "king," "chief," and "lord."

Innes c 2 Scottish surname, taken from the barony of Innes in Urquhart. Sc
Ga: innis "island." 19th C.

Innocence Y a Latin: innocentia "blamelessness" and "innocence" < in-
"not" + noceo "to harm" and "to hurt." 16th C. Innocentia is found as a
given name in the Middle Ages.

Innocent c~ 2 Latin: Innocentius "belonging to Innocens"-both Roman
cognomina from L: innocens "harmless," "inoffensive."The name of more
than one early saint and several popes (who didn't necessarily live up to
their names, such as Innocent III [c. 1160-1216], who launched the Fourth
Crusade and persecuted the Cathars). It: Innocenzo, Ru: Innokenti.

Ino Y The name of a Greek sea Goddess, also called Leucothea. Her tale
according to Greek mythology, however, is not a happy or pleasant one.
Born human, the daughter of Cadmus, King of Thebes and wife of Athamas,
she raised the infant Dionysus, son of her sister Semele.'This did not stop
Dionysus driving her and her sisters-Agave and Autonoe- mad, compelling
them to rip Agave's son Pentheus to pieces. Ino was later driven mad again,
and she and Athamas killed their children. After finding that she had boiled
her younger son in a pot, she leapt into the sea with his body, and was
turned into a Goddess.'The Greeks and Romans believed she came to the aid
of sailors in distress-it was she who rescued Odysseus after his boat
sank.'The Romans called her Mater Matuta.'The etymology of Ino is very
uncertain, but there is a vague possibility that it derives from the same PIE
root from which CC: *windo- "white" developed. 17th C.

Io 2 A name borne by more than one character in Greek mythology.'The
most important is Io, priestess of Hera, who was beloved by Zeus and
turned by him into a cow to protect her from the wrath of his wife. Io

endured many sufferings and adventures in the form of a cow before finally returning to human form and settling in Egypt, where she instituted the worship of Demeter. The Greeks and Romans believed that the Egyptians worshipped both Demeter and Io under the name of Isis. Sometimes said to be from Gr: *ion* "violet," this is by no means certain, and its true origins may well be pre-Greek. It is possibly a back-formation from *Ionios*, the Greek name of the sea across which Io was said to have swum.

Ioan c~ Archaic Welsh form of JOHN, resurrected in Wales in the late nineteenth century. Bearers: *Ioan Gruffudd* (b. 1973), the Welsh actor.

Iobhar g The name of a character in Irish mythology. 01: *ibar* "yew."

Iolanthe Y A nineteenth-century combination of *IOLE* + *IANTHE*, perhaps influenced by the medieval name *YOLANDE*. Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *Iolanthe* (1883) is largely responsible for its use.

Iole Y Diminutive of Gr: *ion* "violet" and exactly cognate with the Latin *VIOLA*. *Iole* was the name of Heracles's lover. When his wife found out about the affair, *Iole* accidentally sent him a poisoned robe (like you do), which caused his death. 19th C. Var: *Iola*.

Iollan c? Old Irish name from myth and history, borne by members of the *Fianna* and a king of Leinster. Its origins aren't entirely clear; but it may be a diminutive of Jr Ga: *iol* "idol" or connected with *ealadh* "learning" and "skill"; the earliest form of this was *ELATHA*. Var: *Ilann*, *Iollan*, *Iollann*.

Iolo g A Welsh name with a somewhat disputed history. It is mostly regarded today as a pet-form of *IORWETH*, but it is argued by some that it is actually the Welsh form of *JULIUS*. Fem: *Iola* (mod). Bearers: *Iolo Morgannwg*, the Bardic name of Edward Williams (1747-1826), often called the father of Modern Druidry, whose work the *Barddas* was highly influential in the Druid revival.

Iomlan a' Y Irish Gaelic: *iomlaidn* "whole" and "complete." Used of the full moon (*iomlaidn gealaid*).

Ion c? In Greek mythology, Ion is the name of a son of Apollo or Xuthus by Creusa, daughter of King Erechtheus of Athens. From him the Ionian Greeks are said to descend. His name is essentially the masculine form of IO. Again, he is more likely to be a creation to explain the origin of the Ionians rather than a genuine historic figure. Ion is also the Romanian form of JOHN.

Iona Y The name of the Scottish island famous for its monastic community, but sacred long before the coming of Christianity. A testimony to this is the island's name itself CC: *yewo- "yew." 19th C.

Ionait 2 Old Irish name. The second element is the fem. suffix -ait, but the first isn't clear; it may derive from OIr: idu "birth pains," or be connected with the Sc Gae: iodhan "sincere," or even CC: *yewo- "yew."

lone Y A name borne in Greek mythology by one of the Nereids, a group of fifty sea nymphs who were the daughters of Nereus; the Greek form is Eione. Her name is either a variant of IOLE or a development of the Greek ION. Used by Edward Bulwer-Lytton in his novel The Last Days of Pompeii (1834). 19th C.

Iorwerth c~ Welsh: for "lord" + gwerth "worth." A name borne by numerous figures in Welsh history, it is one of a handful of genuinely Welsh names which have remained in constant use since at least medieval times. Anglicized as Yorath. Var: Iorath.

Iorwg cc Y Welsh: iorwg "ivy."

Ipati (~ The Russian form of Hypatios. Gr: hypatos "highest" and "best." Hypatios-Latinized as Hypatius-was not uncommon in ancient times, and was borne by more than one saint venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Dim: Patya.

Iphigenia y Greek: is "strong" + gignomai "to be born," i.e. "strong-born." Iphigenia was a daughter of Agamemnon, King of Mycenae. He was forced to offer her in sacrifice to appease Artemis when the Greek fleet, sailing to Troy to reclaim Helen, became stranded by unfavorable winds at Aulis. In some versions of the myth, Artemis substituted Iphigenia with a deer at, or

just before, the moment of sacrifice. What happened to her then is uncertain. Some ancient accounts say that she then became the Goddess Hecate; others, that Artemis made her a priestess in the land of the Taurians. The Greek historian Herodotus, writing in the fifth century BCE, recorded that the Taurians still offered human sacrifices to Iphigenia. Var: Iphianassa.

Ira e Biblical name. Aramaic: "stallion." The identical Latin ira means "anger." 16th C.

Ireland 2 a A surname and the name of the country. The surname-deriving from the country-has been used as a given name since the seventeenth century; now the name is usually used with the Emerald Isle itself in mind. Ireland's name is a combination of ERIU + "land."

Irene Y Greek: eirene "peace." Eirene was the personification of peace in Ancient Greece. Along with Eunomia "order" and Dike "justice," she was believed to preside over the three Greek seasons of spring, summer and winter. Originally, Irene was pronounced with three syllables, but nowadays, it is normally two. 19th C. Dim: Reenie, Rene, Renie. Rom: Irena, Ru: Irina, Mod Gr: Irini. Bearers: Irene Adler, a character in Arthur Conan Doyle's *A Scandal in Bohemia* (1891); Irene Forsyte, one of the main characters in Galsworthy's *Forsyte Saga* (1906-21).

Iris Y Greek: iris "rainbow." The Greek Goddess of the rainbow. She is a messenger of the Gods, specifically of Hera. The flower, epitomized by van Gogh's *Irises* (1889), is named after her. 19th C. Bearers: Iris Murdoch (1919-99), the Irish-born novelist.

Irkalla Y Another name for the Mesopotamian Goddess Ereshkigal, the Goddess who rules the Underworld. Strictly speaking Irkalla is the Underworld. Sumerian urn "city" + gal: "great"-i.e. "the great city."

Irma 2 German name, arising as a short form of names beginning with Irm- such as IRMGARD. 19th C. Var: Erma. Dim: Imke (Ger). Bearers: Irma Prunesquallor, a character in Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast* series (1946-59).

Irmgard y German name. OG: ermen "strong" and "whole" + gart "enclosure." Ermengarde was found in Britain in the Middle Ages, but whether this is the German name, introduced by the Normans, or the cognate English Eormengard is unclear. Var: Irmengard.

Iron c~ The name of the metal, synonymous with strength and durability. In the ancient world, it was linked to both the planet and the God Jupiter. OE: iren and isern. 19th C.

Irvine c~ Scottish surname, derived from Irvine in Ayrshire. There is also a river of the name. Both probably have the same Celtic source. Old forms of Irvine include Hirewyn and Irwyn suggesting the second element is cognate with the Welsh gwyn. In Roman times, Irvine Bay was known as Vindogara (*vindo- is the Common Celtic source of gwyn). The first element may well be PIE: *reyH- "flow." 17th C. Var: Irving. Bearers: Irving Berlin (1888-1989), the Russian-born American composer (real name Israel Baline).

Irwell c~ The name of a British river. Like Orwell, it may represent a mixture of elements; the first is probably PIE: *reyH- "flow," the second OE: wella "stream."

Isa Y Isa arose in Scotland as a short form of ISABELLA and its related names. In Australia the name has become associated with Mount Isa in Queensland, which was named by a prospector after his sister, whose full name was also Isabella. 19th C.

Isaac c~ Biblical name. Heb: "he may laugh." 13th C. Var: Izaak. Dim: Ike, Zak. Bearers: Izaak Walton (1593-1683), the English angler and writer; Isaac Newton (1642-1727), the English scientist; Isaac Asimov (1920-92), the American science-fiction author; Isaac Bonewits (1949-2010), the influential American Druid. Ar: Ishaq, Ger: Izaak, Scand: Isak, Mod Heb: Yitzhak, Itzhak.

Isabella 2 Isabella developed in Spain or Provence around a thousand years ago from ELIZABETH, and became the usual form of Elizabeth in Spain and France for most of the medieval and early modern period. With dynastic marriages it quickly spread, arriving in Britain towards the end of the twelfth century. Its connections with Elizabeth were remembered,

however, and it seems even in Britain the two names were regarded as interchangeable. 'The usual English form of the name is Isabel, while in Scotland it is Isobel although Ishbel and Isbel were used in the past and are still sometimes encountered. Isabella itself saw little use outside Latin records until the eighteenth century. Dim: Bibby, Ibb, Ibbot, Libbe, Nibb, Tibb (hist); Tibby, ISA, BELLA, Belle, BEL, Issie, ISSY, Izzie, Izzy. Var: Isabelle, Izabella, Izabelle, Izabel, Sabella; Ysabel, Yzabel (mod). Fr: Isabelle, Sc Ga: Iseabail, Isbeal; Beileag (dim). It Ga: Isibeal, Sibeal. Bearers: Isabella of Angoulême (1188-1246), the queen of King John; Isabella of France (c. 1292-1358), queen of King Edward II-"the She-Wolf of France"; Isabella Gowdie (fl. 1662), a notorious Scottish Witch. Isabella is a character in Thomas Middleton's play The Witch (1616).

Isaiah cc Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh is generous." The name of one of the main prophets of Judeo-Christianity. 16th C. Var: Isaias (Gr). It: Isaia, Fr: Issie.

Isamu c Japanese name-isamu "brave," "courageous," and "valiant," etc.

Isao c~ Japanese name. Depending on the kanji used it can mean things such as "merits" and "meritorious deeds," or "brave man."

Isasa Y Zulu: isasa "morning."

Isastera Y Greek: isasteros "like a star" and "bright as a star."

Isca 2 The Latin name for the both the River Exe and the River Usk, after which the towns of Exeter (Isca Dumnoniorum) and Caerleon (Isca Augusta) got their Roman names. CC: *iska- "water"-cognate with whiskey.

Isebras e The story of Sir Isebras at the Ford, which features in the medieval Chansons de Geste, was immortalized in a painting by Millais. OG: isan "iron" + OF: bras "arms."

Iseul Y Korean name-iseul "dew."

Isfael a' Welsh: is "under" + mael "prince." "The name of a sixth-century saint.

Ishara Y Hittite Goddess of Oaths.

Ishkur c~ Sumerian God of storms; the Sumerian equivalent of Adad. The etymology is unclear; kur means "mountain"-but so does is; although this is not the sign actually used to compose the logogram for Ishkur in Sumerian texts.

Ishmael cc Hebrew: "(a) God has heard." In the Bible, Ishmael was the son of Abraham by his concubine Hagar, whom his wife Sarah turned out into the desert because of her jealousy. Hagar and her son almost died. Ishmael survived, however, and-according to tradition-became the ancestor of all the Arab tribes. Islam also teaches that it was Ishmael who was almost sacrificed by Abraham, not Isaac. 16th C. The name features in Herman Melville's Moby Dick (1851), which begins with the memorable line, "Call me Ishmael." Var: Ismael. Ar: Ismail.

Ishtar 2 Ishtar is probably the most famous of the Goddesses of Mesopotamia-equated with Aphrodite and Ashtoreth. In Egyptian texts, she appears as `Astar-Hnru. The etymology is unknown; many theories abound, ranging from connections with Eostre (see Easter) to Esther, but evidence is too flimsy to say anything with certainty. Late 19th C.

Isiac c~ English: Isiac "belonging to" or "pertaining to ISIS." It can also mean "priest of Isis" or "worshipper of Isis."

Isidora Y Feminine form of ISIDORE. 13th C. Dim: ISSY, Izzy, DORA. Var: Isadora. Bearers: Isadora Duncan (1878-1927), the American dancer.

Isidore Greek: Isidoros "gift of ISIS." It was common in Hellenistic and Roman times, when the cult of Isis was popular across the Roman Empire, and survived even after Christianity became the State religion. Two Spanish saints one sixth-century and one medieval-perpetuated its use generally in Spain, but elsewhere it became regarded as a Jewish name; Jewish people had adopted it to use in place of Isaiah. It has been found among the

Catholic and Jewish communities in the ESW from the seventeenth century.
Ger: Isidor, Sp: Isidoro, Isidro, Ysidro.

Isioma 2 Nigerian name. Igbo: isi "head" + oma "good." Dim: Isy.

Isis Y The name of the Egyptian Goddess whose cult at its height spread across the Roman Empire, but was centered in Alexandria. Isis is the Greek form of the Egyptian Ast meaning "(she of the) throne." The river in Oxford, England, called Isis, which flows into the Thames, acquired its name in the medieval period through a misunderstanding of the name of the Thames itself-its Latin name Tamesis was interpreted as deriving from THAMES + Isis. 18th C.

Iska ? Hausa: iska "wind" and "breeze." It is also used of a scent with a very light, faint, or transient fragrance, but also of a kind of bad spirit believed to induce madness.

Iskra 2 Croatian, Polish, and Russian: iskra "spark," "sparkle," "gleam," and "glint." Iskra was the name of the revolutionary Marxist newspaper founded by Lenin in 1900.

Isla 2 A modern Scottish name, which probably arose as a variant of ISLAY, though there is a small river called Isla. Its use may also have been influenced by AILSA. The names are all pronounced the same in Scotland.
Var: Ila.

Islay ? a The name of the Scottish island, known for a single malt whisky produced there. Its Gaelic name is he, although the ultimate origin of the name is uncertain. It may be a combination of its Old Norse name Yula (generally assumed to be female-see Yule) + ey "island." Late 19th C.

Islwyn c Welsh: is "under" + llwyn "grove"-the name of a mountain in Gwent. A very similar name is Islyn-is "under" + glyn "vale." 19th C.

Ismay ? This name is recorded from the thirteenth century in various forms such as Ysemay, Isemay, Ysmay, and Isamaya but its origins are very obscure. It may be a variant of the similarly obscure ISMENIA. The name is not found in continental Europe, which strongly suggests a Celtic origin;

the fact that one of the earliest examples is of a woman from Mold in North Wales also points this way. In Welsh, there are a number of names beginning with the preposition *is* meaning "under," "below," or "lower," followed by a word denoting a geographical feature. The obvious contender in the case of Ismay would be MW: *mai* "field." Alternatively, this second element may be *Mai* "May." Meanwhile, other intriguing options for the first element are CC: **weso-* "excellent," or ESUS. Names containing **weso-* or *Esus* are known from inscriptions in Roman Britain.

Ismene 2 The name of a daughter of Oedipus and sister of Antigone. Gr: *isme* "knowledge." It may have been used in the thirteenth century in the form ISMENIA, but most use dates from the nineteenth century.

Ismenia Y Ismenia is first recorded in Britain in the twelfth century, and is almost certainly unrelated to the very similar-looking Ismene. Like Ismay, the name is unknown on the continent, making it likely that it is of Celtic origin. And also like Ismay, the first element might simply represent the *W:* *is* "under," "below," or "lower." In the case of Ismenia, the second element could be *maen* "stone," which had already taken this form by the twelfth century. Another, more attractive option would be a derivation from CC: **moyni-* "treasure" or "precious object" which became *muin* in Old Welsh, and *mwyn* "worth" and "value" in Middle Welsh. This would take on even more meaning if the first element was derived from CC: **weso-* "excellent" or the Celtic theonym ESUS. Var: *Eamayn*, *Emoni*, *Imaigne*, *Imania*, *Imanie*, *Imayne*, *Imeyna*, *Ismena*, *Ismeina*, *Ymenia*, *Ysmeine*, *Ysmena*, *Ysmeina* (hist). See also *Jesmond*.

Isnin c? Malaysian name. Malay: *isnin* "Monday."

Isolda 2 The story of Tristan and Iseult was one of the most popular of the Arthurian Cycles in medieval times. Iseult is the French form, which also occurs as Yseult. Its origins, like the similar Ismay and Ismenia, are much debated. The name is often said to be a version of Old German *Isold-* *is* "ice" + *vald* "rule," but a Germanic name ending up in a Celtic tale doesn't seem terribly likely. Indeed, a historic woman who bore the name is known to have lived c. 800 CE—the earliest recorded form of the name anywhere—and she was Welsh. A Celtic source is, therefore, much more likely—perhaps *W:* *is* "under" + *alit* "hillside." This would be consistent with the known

Welsh form of the name-ESYLLT-although the initial "e" instead of "i" might add weight to the theory that the first element actually represents a survival of CC: *weso- "excellent," or ESUS. The name was revived in the nineteenth century, usually as Isolda, and largely following the first performance of Wagner's opera Tristan und Isolde (1865). Var: Isolde, Isott, Isowde, Isylte, Ysolt (hist). Bearers: Iseult Gonne (1894-1954), the daughter of Irish feminist and revolutionary Maud Gonne.

Isra Y Arabic name with the traditional meaning "night journey." In Islamic tradition it refers specifically to a journey taken by Muhammad to meet Jesus and Moses in Jerusalem.

Israel c~ 2 In the Bible, Israel is said to mean in Hebrew "he who fights with God," though "may (a) God prevail" is considered more likely, although the etymology remains quite disputed. It is said to be the name given to Jacob after he wrestled with his God. "Israelites" became one name for his descendants-i.e. the Jewish people-and Israel was chosen in 1948 as the name for the newly created Jewish state in Palestine. 17th C. Now that the name is associated more with the country, it has begun to be used for girls. Bearers: Israel Hands, a pirate in Robert Louis Stevensons Treasure Island (1883).

Issachar c~ The name in the Bible of one of the sons of Jacob. Heb: "hireling." 16th C.

Issoria Y Epithet of Artemis, derived from Mount Issorion, near Sparta, where she had a sanctuary. The meaning of Issorion is unknown and possibly pre-Greek.

Issy Y The name of an obscure Cornish saint. Her name is almost certainly Celtic in origin, and possibly represents a much corrupted form of ISOLDA.

Isten c? Hungarian word now used to mean simply "God" in the Christian sense. Originally, however, Isten was the chief God of the Hungarian Pagan pantheon; his name is probably related to Istanu, the name of the Hittite sun God, and possibly also the Egyptian Astennu-one form of whose name was also Isten. Astennu is strongly associated with Thoth. His name is derived

from the Egyptian ast "throne."The Hungarian Isten is associated with archery, horses, and trees.

Istvan cc The Hungarian form of STEPHEN. St. Stephen of Hungary (975-1038) is patron saint of Hungary. He was responsible for Hungary's conversion to Christianity, although evidence suggests that Paganism survived among the peasants well into the eleventh century; there was a Pagan uprising in 1046, which led to Andrew I gaining the Hungarian crown. Andrew, however, was a Christian, and maintained Christianity in Hungary. Dim: Pista.

Italy Y Italy is the land of the Romans and Etruscans, home to numerous settlements by Greeks and-according to legend-of Trojans too, birthplace of the Renaissance and, arguably, Christianity. It is a land redolent with art, history, culture-and ice cream. 19th C. Var: Italia, Italie.

Ithel a' Old Welsh name-iud(d) "lord" + hael "generous." It is first recorded in the ninth century and survived until at least the twelfth century. Revived in Wales in the nineteenth.

Ithemba j j Ndebele and Zulu: ithemba "hope."

Itzel Y Itzel is often said to be a Mayan Goddess of the moon, the Earth, childbirth, and medicine and to mean "rainbow lady," "moon Goddess," and/or "star." Actually, in K'iche', itzel means "bad" and "evil," deriving from itz "devil" and "Witchcraft." A Witch is itzinel. "Moon" in K'iche' is ik, and "star" is ch'imil-and none of the words for "rainbow" are anything like it. Var: Ixchel.

lulus cj An alternative name for Ascanius, son of Aeneas, from whom the Roman gens Julia descended. Its meaning is unknown. It was much used in Virgil's epic poem the Aeneid in order to emphasize the descent of the Julian family-and hence the Emperor Augustus to whom the work was dedicated-from Aeneas and his mother, Venus.

Ivah Y A biblical place name, which came into use as a girl's name in the sixteenth century-possibly because it was mistaken for a first name (the question is asked, "Where are the Gods of ... Ivah?").

Ivan cJ The Russian form of JOHN. Used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. Dim: Vanya.

Ivana Y Serbo-Croatian and Czech feminine form of IVAN, which has been used across Europe and in the ESW world since the nineteenth century. Ru: Ivanna.

Ivancica Y Croatian name-ivancica "daisy."

Ivar a Scandinavian name. ON: yr "yew" and "bow" + Kerr "warrior." "The Old Norse form Ivarr was common during the Viking period. Var: Iver. Sc Ga: Iomhar, Jr Ga: Iomhar.

Ive Y e As a girl's name, Ive is the name of an obscure Cornish saint, also known as IA. As a boy's, it is a medieval variant of IVO. Both may derive from cognate roots meaning "yew"-CC: *yewo- and OG: iv.

No a Old German name-iv "yew." Ives and Ivon were popular with the Normans, but did not survive the Middle Ages. Revived 19th C. Var: Yvo, Ive. Fr: YVES.

Ivor Anglicized form of Welsh IFOR, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century.

Ivory 2 Carving devotional objects, jewelry, and objets d'art from bone dates to prehistoric times and, where there was access to it, the same is true of ivory. Unfortunately, while in ancient times most ivory was probably taken from dead elephants, the market for ivory was such in the last few centuries that elephants have been hunted almost to the point of extinction in the wild. OF: yvoire < L: ebur < San: ibhas "elephant." Late 19th C.

Ivy j The name of the evergreen vine, frequently found growing on old buildings and trees. It is one of the Ogham woods-known as Gort-and has long had associations of eternal life and rebirth. As such, along with other evergreens such as holly and mistletoe, it is a symbol of the midwinter festivals surrounding the Winter Solstice. It is particularly paired with the holly in folklore. Ruled by Saturn and Water, it is used magically for healing and protection; brides often wore chaplets of ivy, both for the

protection and also because the ivy's growth habit-twining and clinging-was symbolic of union. It is said to be potent at warding off negativity wherever it grows or is placed. In the past it was used in herbal medicine, but its toxicity prevents it from being much used today. OE: ifig "ivy." Late 19th C.

Iwerydd Y In Welsh myth, Iwerydd was the name borne by the mother of Bran Galed (Bran the Hard), a famous sailor. To this day the Welsh for the Atlantic Ocean is Mdr Iwerydd. It may well share the same root as the Welsh for Ireland-Iwerddon, which is probably cognate with the Irish ERIU. Late 20th C.

Ixion e The name of a King of Thessaly. Traditionally derived from Gr: hiketes "supplicant," since Ixion sought protection from Zeus after he murdered his father-in-law. However, it may derive simply from Gr: ixos "mistletoe" or ixia "pine-thistle." Ixion was not a very pleasant fellow, unfortunately. In addition to murder, he attempted to seduce Hera. Zeus, astonished at this audacity, fashioned a replica of Hera from a cloud and sent her to Ixion's bed. Ixion thought all his Yules had come at once-until caught in delectio. After that he was punished by being chained to a fiery wheel revolving forever in the Underworld. The cloud-Nephele-later gave birth to the first centaur. 19th C.

Ixius a Epithet of Apollo. Gr: Ixios "from Ixiai," the name of a town on Rhodes < ixia "pine-thistle" (*Atractylis gummifera*); it could also mean "of mistletoe" < ixos "mistletoe."

Izan c Basque name-izan "being," "existence," and "wealth."

Izar ' 2 Another name for Mirak, a star in the constellation Bootes. Ar: izar "shawl." In Basque, izar also happens to mean "star." Var: Izarra Y.

Izulu ' Zulu: izulu "sky," "heaven," and "weather."

Izumi 2 Japanese name-izumi "fountain" and "spring."

Jabari cc Swahili:jabari "brave person," "proud person," and "God." Late 20th C.

Jabez cc' Biblical name. Heb: ya'zeb "sorrowful" or yabets "he causes sorrow"-16th C.'The Christian evangelizing and evangelistic book Prayer of Jabez (2001)-a Christian version of Rhonda Byrne's The Secret (2006)-has raised its profile recently.

Jabru cc Jabru was an Elamite deity of the underworld and father of all the Gods. His name may be cognate with Ar: jabr "restoration," from jabara "to reunite" and "to restore," specifically used of broken bones. The Arabic al jabr is the source of the English "algebra," which originally had the meaning of "bone-setting" or the mending of any broken things.

Jabulela Y Zulu: jabulela "to rejoice in (something or someone)."

Jabulisa y Zulu: jabulisa "to please" and "to delight."

Jacaranda 2 The name of a genus of trees with beautiful blue blooms, native to the Americas. Tupi-Guarani: jacaranda "the jacaranda." 20th C.

Jacek c~ Polish name, deriving from the older Jacenty, the Polish form of HYACINTH and the name of a thirteenthcentury Polish saint.

Jacey Y Jacey probably evolved as a variant of Josie (see Josephine)-or as a feminine form of JASON from its petform Jace. Or it may even have arisen simply as a phonetic spelling of the initials J.C. 20th C. Var: Jaycee, Jacy, JACI, Jasy, Jasey, Jasi.

Jaci 2 5' Most of Jaci's use in the ESW is as a variant of JACEY. It is, however, the Anglicized form of Tupi: id "moon" + sy "mother." Jaci is the Tupi deity of the Moon, who created all plant-life. Jasy, the cognate Guarani word for moon, can be considered a variant. Jaci and Jacy are found as given names in Brazil. Although the God is male, it tends to be used more as a girl's name.

Jacinth Y c~ A precious stone. Originally, it was used for a blue gem-probably the sapphire. Today it is applied to reddish-orange varieties of zircon, topaz, and garnet. OF: iacinte < Gr: huakinthos "hyacinth." Used for boys in the sixteenth century-perhaps because of a mention in the Bible. From the seventeenth, it is found as a girl's name. In Tennyson's Idylls of the King, jacinths are one of three stones adorning Excalibur (the others are diamonds and topazes). Var: Jacintha, Jacinta, Jacynth, Jacyntha, Jacinda (mod). Fr: Jacinthe. Bearers: Jacintha Buddicom (1901-94), the British poet who mapped horoscopes for Aleister Crowley, among others.

Jack c' Pet-form of JOHN, used since the Middle Ages. It developed from the earlier medieval pet-form Jankin (which gave rise to the surnames Jenkin, Jenkins, Jenkinson, Jenks, and Jinks, etc.). It was very common in the late medieval period, and came into use as a generic name for a man or male creature, such as Jack Tar. Some uses have become so ingrained that the fact the name Jack is involved almost goes unnoticed, such as "steeplejack," "jackass," and JACKDAW. The name features particularly highly in folklore. Jack Frost is frost personified; a spirit of winter who draws fern-patterns on icy glass-panes. Jack-in-the-green is a name of the Green Man, and jack-o'-lantern is another name for the will-o'-thewisp. Several surnames derive from it, including Jack, Jacks, Jaggs, Jakes, Jeeks, Jacket, Jacklin, Jackman, and JACKSON. Before the twentieth century, most Jacks were baptized John, even if they only ever used Jack all of their lives. Dim: Jackie, Jacky. Bearers: Jack Parsons (1914-52)-whose birth name was Marvel-was a notable American'Ihelemite, who is also known for the work he did at Caltech in rocket propulsion.

Jackal c~ A small pack-hunting and scavenging dog found across Asia, Africa, and parts of Southern Europe. Anubis, the Egyptian God of mummification and the underworld, is well known for having the head of a jackal. Generally, jackals have a negative image to the point of stereotype, garnered through their scavenging-such as the portrayal of the jackal pack in Disney's Lion King (1994). Turk: fakal "jackal" < Persian: shagal.'The form the English has taken has almost certainly been influenced by JACK.'The Jackal, a professional assassin, is the name of the main character in Frederick Forsyth's The Day of the Jackal (1963).

Jackdaw e Jackdaws are famous for nesting in ruins and old quarries and for their distinctive "chak" call. It is a clever bird, capable of imitating the calls of other birds and even human words. Shakespeare calls the birds "daws," but even in his time they had acquired their forename JACK. As a nickname, particularly in ornithology, "jack" often denotes a smaller bird- and the jackdaw is smaller than its close relations the raven, rook, and crow. "Jack" was also used in the sense of "knave" and again this suits the bird, which is well known for its thieving habits. In many parts of the British Isles in the past, jackdaws were regarded as a portent of rain. And in the North, a jackdaw down the chimney was believed to portend a death in the family. 20th C.

Jackson c~ English surname-"son of Jack." In America, it was often bestowed in the past in honor of President Andrew Jackson (1767-1845). 17th C. Var: Jaxon, Jaxson. Bearers: Jackson Pollock (1912-56), the American artist.

Jacob cc Anglicized form of Heb: ja'dgob, a name of disputed meaning. The first bearer of the name in the Bible is the younger of the twin sons of Isaac, and the popular etymology given in Genesis is "he seized the heel" or "he supplanted," referring to the fact he was said to have been born grasping his older brother Esau's heel, or because he supplanted Esau in his father's affections. However, it may actually be Babylonian in origin rather than Hebrew, with the meaning "(a) God rewards." Whatever its origins, by the first century CE it had, as Yaakov, become one of the most popular Jewish names. In Greek it became Iakdbos. This in turn became Iacobus and Iacomus in Latin, which were later often written as Iacobus and Iacomus (like many Latin names beginning with "i"). Jacob developed from Iacobus, and JAMES from Iacomus. In English, Jacob tends to be used in the Old Testament and James in the New. Jacob's ladder is the popular name of Polemonium, which is also called Greek valerian and charity, and was formerly used in herbal medicine. As a given name, Jacob remained a Jewish name until the Reformation. Dim: JAKE, COBY. It: Giacobbe, Arm: Hagop, Sp, W: IAGO, Yago, Fin: Jaakko, Dut: Jaap, Cornish: Jago, Get, Scand: Jakob; Dan: Jakob; lb (dim), Hun: Jakob, Jakab, Slov: Jaka, Cz, Pol: Jakub; Kuba (dim), Ru: Yakov, Turk: Yakup. Bearers: Jacob Grimm (1785-1863), one of the Brothers Grimm, collectors of fairytales;

Jacob Marley, Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* (1843); Jacob Black, one of the principal characters in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series (2005-8).

Jacoba Y Jacoba, the Latin feminine form of JAMES, is found as a given name for girls from medieval times, although, since all the records in which it appears are in Latin, it is likely that the girls so-named were in fact called James, just like all the boys recorded as Jacobus. In the eighteenth century, Jacoba, along with Jacobina, came into genuine use amongst the Jacobites in honor of the dethroned King James 11 (1633-1701) and his son, James the Old Pretender (1688-1766).

Jacqueline Y French feminine form of JACQUES. It is found in England in the Middle Ages, and returned in the nineteenth century. Var: Jacalyna, Jackellyna, Jaclyn, Jakolina, Jakelina, Jaquelyna, Jaqualina (hist); Jacquelyn, Jac quelin, Jacqueline, Jacqueline, Jacalyn, Jacaline, Jackalyn, Jaqueline, Jaquelin, Jaqueline, Jaclin, Jacklen, Jacklyn, Jacqueline. Dim: Jackie, Jacki, Jacky, Jacqui, Jaki, Jakki, Jax, Jaqui. Sp: Jacqueline, Pol: Zaklina, Cro: Zaklina, Ru: Zhaklin, Serb: Zhaklina. Bearers: Jacqueline of Wittelsbach (1401-36), wife of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester; Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis (1929-94); Jacqueline du Pre (1945-87), the British cellist; Jacqueline Simpson (b. 1930), a British folklorist.

Jacques cc The usual French form of JAMES-and, historically, also of JACOB. Bearers: Jacques de Molay (c. 1240/50-1314), the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, burnt at the stake as a Witch in 1314. Jacques Bonhomme is a French fairy or spirit who redresses wrongs and makes the poor rich.

Jacquetta y A feminine form of JACQUES, mostly used in Flanders and the Low Countries in the Middle Ages. 15th C. Var: Jacquenetta. Bearers: Jacquetta of Luxembourg (1415/16-1472), the wife of John, Duke of Bedford (son of King Henry IV of England), and mother of Elizabeth Woodville, queen of King Edward IV. In 1469, she was accused of Witchcraft by a retainer of the Earl of Warwick; she was put on trial in 1470, but cleared of charges. After her death, Richard III reasserted the charges against her, but never produced any evidence. Jacquetta Hawkes (1910-96) was a British archaeologist and writer, and the wife of

playwright J. B. Priestley, with whom she collaborated on some work. Jacquenetta features in Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Jade Y a The semi-precious stone. It derives from the Spanish (*piedra de*) *dada* meaning "colic stone"; *dada* is used to refer to the lower part of the intestinal canal, and its use is comparable to the other name for jade-nephrite < Gr. *nephros* "kidneys." The stone was so named because of its reputation for protecting the intestines and kidneys from disease. Jade is generally regarded as a protective and nurturing stone, a magnet for good fortune. It has been highly prized for thousands of years, especially in China, where it has been used for all kinds of objects, especially those with ritual significance, such as the third-century BCE Chinese burial suits-made in the belief that the jade would prevent the body from decaying. To the Chinese, jade also symbolizes purity, wisdom, justice, loyalty, sincerity, and truth. As a name, Jade came into use in the late nineteenth century along with the names of other precious and semi-precious gemstones, although its use at first was hindered by the entirely unrelated English word "jade," used of a worn-out horse or nagging old woman. This is the source of the surname Jade, responsible for the fact that in nineteenth century America there were actually more men called Jade than women. Its fortunes changed in 1971, when British rock star Mick Jagger gave the name to his daughter. Var: Jayda, Jada. Jada is actually borne by an obscure male character in the Bible-Heb: "he knows"-but there is little evidence it has ever been used as such.

Jadis Y The name of the White Witch in C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*. Queen of Charn, and a powerful sorceress, she is introduced to Narnia at its birth, where she eats the fruit of eternal life. It has been suggested that Lewis got the name from the French *jadis*, essentially meaning "once upon a time," or from the Persian *jddu* "Witchcraft." Late 20th C.

Jadzia y Polish name-a short-form of *Jadwiga*, the Polish form of *HEDWIG*. St. *Jadwiga* (1373/74-1399)-or St. Hedwig as she is known outside Poland-was Queen of Poland from 1384-although, as a monarch in her own right, she was called "King" during her reign. Most people know the name *Jadzia* from the American science-fiction series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (1993-99).

Jae c~ In the ESW Jae is principally a variant of JAY. Jae is also a Korean name-jae "ash," "wealth"-and the name given to a Buddhist service for the dead. This often features in compound names such as Jaeho (jae + ho "good," "lake," etc.) and Jaesun (jae + seon "goodness").

Jael 2 Hebrew: yael "wild goat." The biblical Jael murdered a character called Sisera-a Caananite general-while he was her guest, by ramming a tent peg through his temples as he slept. For this she was hailed as a heroine and is still regarded as such by many. 16th C. Var: Yael.

Jafar cc Arabic name-jafara "became wide," "swollen," and "filled out," usually interpreted as referring to watercourses and translated as "stream." It was the name of an Arab hero who died fighting against the Byzantine Empire in the seventh century. It is also the name of the evil grand vizier of the sultan of Agrabah in Disney's Aladdin (1992). Var: Gafar, Jaffer, Jaffar.

Jaffe y Modern Hebrew name. Heb: yafeh "beautiful" and "lovely." Var: Yafe, Yaffa.

Jagannath cc Sanskrit: jagat "world," "cosmos," "living" + natha "lord." Jagannath is borne by Vishnu and Krishna as worshipped at Puri in Orissa. Var: Juggernaut (hist)-this began to be used in the nineteenth century for any large, heavy vehicle.

Jagubis c? Lithuanian household God of fire and the furnace. His name is almost certainly related to that of the Lithuanian fire Goddess GABIJA, who seems to have gradually supplanted him.

Jagdish c~ A name borne by several deities in Hinduism. San: jagat "world" + isa "ruler."

Jagoda Y Polish and Balkan name. Pol: jagoda "berry"; Slv, Cro, Serb: jagoda "strawberry."

Jaha Y Swahili: jaha "success," "prosperity," "honor," and "glory."

Jahan c? Persian name-jahan "world." Bearers: Shah Jahan I (1592-1666), the Mogul Emperor, who built the Taj Mahal as a tomb for his beloved

wife. Var: Jehan.

Jahandar cc Persian name jahan "world" + possessive suffix -dar "owner" and "possessor." Borne by a seventeenthcentury Mogul emperor.

Jahangir cc Persian name-jahan "world" + -gir "holder." Borne by the Mogul Emperor Nur ud-din Mohammed (1569-1627), father of Shah Jahan, the man who built the Taj Mahal. Var: Jehangir.

Jaikie c~ Old Scottish pet-form of JAMES. In Scotland, it is used as a slang term for the homeless, alcoholics, and ugly promiscuous women, etc.

Jaime e Y Spanish form of JAMES, Jaime has also been adopted since the mid-twentieth century as a variant of JAMIE when used for girls, possibly originally inspired by the French expression j'aime meaning "I love." The character of Jaime Sommers in the American television series The Bionic Woman (1976-78) is the principal reason for the name's popularity in the last quarter of the twentieth century.

Jakarta Y e Capital of Indonesia. San: jaya "triumph" and "victory" + karta "doer." 20th C.

Jake Gc Jake was originally a variant of JACK, and thus a pet-form of JOHN, but in the twentieth century it has come to be considered a short form of JACOB. 19th C. Bearers: John "Jake" Chambers, a significant character in Stephen King's Dark Tower series (1982-).

Jala 2 Jala is one of those modern names for which there is no shortage of meanings in all kinds of obscure languages. It is most likely, in reality, just a variant of JAYLA. Some of the meanings in other languages include: San: jala "water"-and also "urine"; San: jala "cobweb"; Turkmen: jala "heavy rain" and "cloudburst"; Sesotho: jala "to plant"; Hindi: jala "forgery" and "gin"; Malay: jala "fishing-net."

Jalabi c~ Mende: jalabi "a prayer for the fulfillment of some desire."

Jalal e Arabic name jalal "dignity," "lordliness," "greatness," and "glory." Var: Galal.

Jalan cc Malay: jalan "way," "pathway," "behavior," and "tide."

Jalila y Arabic name jalilah "great," "exalted" or "important." Var: Galila.

Jamaina Y The name of an ocean Goddess, often represented as a mermaid, who is worshipped by the Bakairi people of Brazil. 20th C.

Jamal o' 2 Arabic name-jamal "beauty," "charm," and "grace." Var: Gamal, Gamil, Jamil, Jameel. Fem: Jamila, Jameela.

Jamar c? Jamar first made an appearance in early twentiethcentury America. It is essentially a reworking of LAMAR, with the "l" of Lamar switched for the "j" of JAMES. Var: Jamari, Jamarion (mod).

Jambhala c? An aspect of the Buddhist deity Vajrasattva in Tibet, where he is considered a worldly "Dharma protector" and known as the "King of the North." He is a God of wealth, who grants longevity and prosperity, and is one of-and chief of-the "Four Heavenly Kings." Tibetan:jambhara "citron'a symbol of wealth and prosperity.

James c? James developed from the Late Latin Jacomus-JACOB. After the Reformation, when the Bible was translated into English, Jacob was used for the Old Testament patriarch, while James was used for the apostle and other characters of the name in the New Testament. In many languages, no difference is made between James and Jacob. Semaj-James spelled backwards-is first encountered at the end of the nineteenth century. Late 12th C. Dim: JIM, Jimmy, Jimmie, JAIKIE, JAMIE, Jem, Jemmy, JAY; JAZZ (mod). It: Giacomo, Maori: Hemi, Fr: JACQUES, Sp: JAIME, Cat: Jaume, Jr Ga: SEAMUS, Sc Ga: Seumas; Shamus (Anglicized), HAMISH. Bearers: James Device, one of the Pendle Witches, executed in Lancaster in 1612; James Lindsay (c. 1683-97), one of those executed for Witchcraft at Paisley in Scotland in 1697-he was just fourteen.

Jamesina Y Scottish feminine form of JAMES.17th C.

Jameson c~ English surname-"son ofJAMES." 17th C.

Jamie c~ 2 Jamie has long been the most popular pet-form of James in Scotland. It spread to the rest of the British Isles in the twentieth century, increasingly being used as a name in its own right as well as supplanting JIM. In the latter part of the twentieth century it has also been adopted as a girl's name, when it is often spelled JAIME. Bearers: Jamie Cullum (b. 1979), a British singer-songwriter; Jamie Lee Curtis (b. 1958), the American actress.

Jamshid c' Persian name. Combination of the Avestan names Yima "twin"+ Xsaeta "bright" and "shining." In Persian folklore and legend, Jamshid is regarded as the fourth king of the world, the greatest ever known. He is said to have possessed a magical cup filled with the elixir of life, in which he could scry and observe the whole universe. Later he was regarded as a genie.

Jan Y c' The girl's name Jan evolved as a short form of JANET, and has been used independently since the midtwentieth century or thereabouts. It is often treated as a variant of JANE, and a short form of other names beginning with Jan-. The boy's name was found in medieval England as a variant of JOHN, lingering as such in Cornwall. It is also the usual form of John in Holland, Scandinavia and Poland. Jan Tregeagle is a famous Cornish ghost. Said to have been a very wicked man in life, the tale goes that he was called from his grave during a lawsuit, after which he haunted the perpetrator relentlessly. Numerous attempts were made to exorcise him, or at least contain him-such as getting him to empty Dozmary Pool on Bodmin with a sea-shell with a hole in it. Another of his tasks was to make ropes from the sand at Gwenvor Cove. When the wind howls around Castle-an Dinas, it is said to be Tregeagle, still hard at his task, roaring with frustration and anger. Jan is also a 'Mai girl's name meaning "moon."

Jana 2 Latinized form of JANE, which has sometimes been used in the ESW-especially in the twentieth century-as well as the normal Dutch, Czech, and Polish form of Jane. It is also the name of an obscure Roman Goddess of doors and passages, essentially a female counterpart of JANUS, of which her name is the feminine form. She is considered to be an aspect of the Goddess Diana. In Malay Jana also means "life," while in Swahili, it means "yesterday."

Janaina 2 Brazilian name. Tupi: iandd una-a type of black bird.

Janaki ? Epithet of Sita, wife of Rama. San: janaka "generative," "begetting," and "father." Janaka was the name of her father, and the epithet is usually interpreted as meaning "daughter of Janaki," though it is simply the feminine form.

Jancis 2 Janis represents a modern combination of JANE with FRANCES or CICELY, possibly influenced by JANCITH. It owes most of its use to Mary Webb's *Precious Bane* (1924); Bearers: Jancis Robinson (b. 1950), the British wine critic and writer.

Jandira ? The name of a Goddess of the sea, worshipped by the Bakairi people of Brazil. 20th C.

Jane Y A feminine form of JOHN, evolved from the Medieval Jehane, from which also developed the French JEANNE and Scottish JEAN. 14th C. Dim: JENNY (hist); Janey, Janie, Jaynie, JANET. Var: DANA, Janae, Jaine, Jania, Janiya, Janiyah, Jayne (mod). It: Giovanna, Gianna, Bul: Ioana, Ru: IVANA, Fin: Jaana, Janna, Cz, Dut, Pol: Jana, Ger: JOHANNA; Hanne (dim). Serb: Jovana; Jovanka (dim), Sp: Juana; Juanita (dim); W: SIAN, Jr Ga: SINE. Bearers: Lady Jane Grey (1536/37-54), the ill-fated "Queen for Nine Days," who was a victim of political intrigue and executed at the age of 17; Jane Southworth (fl. 1612), one of the so-called "Samlesbury Witches" who were acquitted in 1612; Jane Wenham (d. 1730), who is erroneously regarded as the defendant in the last Witch trial in England in 1712 she also was acquitted; Jane Rebecca Yorke (1872-aft. 1944), the last person in Britain convicted under the Witchcraft Act of 1735 in 1944; Jane Roberts (1929-84), the American psychic and author.

Janelle Y Elaboration of JANE, which emerged in the USA in the early 1930s. Var: Janella.

Janessa Y A blend of JANE and VANESSA; Late 19th C. Very similar is JENESSA, combining Vanessa with JENNIFER. It is possible that the names were inspired by IANASSA, which could, theoretically, be Anglicized as Janassa.

Janet y Beginning life as a pet-form of JANE, Janet has been used as a name in its own right since the late medieval period. It became particularly widespread in Scotland, and is often shortened there to Netta or NETTIE. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, it was used as a generic name for a Witch. Revived in the rest of the ESW in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Janet Horne, the last woman executed for Witchcraft in the British Isles at Dornoch in Scotland in 1727; Janet Corset (or Cornfoot), killed by a mob at Pittenweem in 1704 for Witchcraft; Janet Barker and Janet Brown, burned for Witchcraft in Scotland in 1643; Janet Bowman burned for Witchcraft in Scotland in 1572; Janet Douglas, Lady Glamis (d.1537), ancestor of Queen Elizabeth II, who was burnt at the stake for Witchcraft at Edinburgh Castle; Janet Farrar (b. 1950), the influential UK Wiccan writer; Janet Weiss, the heroine of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* (1973). Janet is also the usual name of the heroine of the Scottish folk-ballad "Tam Lin," in which a mortal man, taken by the fairies, wins his freedom through the love and steadfastness of a mortal woman. Var: Janette, Janetta, JEANETTE (mod). Sc Ga: Sebnaid, Jr Ga: SINEAD, W: Sioned.

Janguli Y The name of a snake Goddess worshipped by the Vajrayana Buddhists in Birbhum, Tibet, who protects followers from snake-bites and is equated with the Goddess Manasa. San: jangala "dry ground" or "desert."

Janice y Modern elaboration of JANE with the -ice ending from names such as Clarice. Its first appearance seems to have been in Paul Leicester's 1899 novel *Janice Meredith*, which was made into a silent film of the same name in 1924. Var: JANIS.

Janicot cc The name of a Basque Horned God, discussed by Margaret Murray in her famous and influential work *The God of the Witches* (1933). The derivation is uncertain, though it is possible that the name is connected with that of the Roman God JANUS. It occurs as a pet form of JOHN in the fifteenth century. 20th C.

Janine y Modern elaboration of JANE blended with the -ine ending of names such as Caroline. It may have been influenced by the French Jeannine, a diminutive form of JEANNE. Late 19th C. Var: Janeen, Janene, Janean, Janeane, Janina.

Janis Y a Mostly known in the ESW as a variant spelling of JANICE Janis Joplin (1943-70) being a good example Janis is the name of a Latvian solar God and used as the Latvian form of JOHN. The Summer Solstice in Latvia is known as Jani, but it is unclear whether this is an old Latvian word, or derives from John, since the Pagan Solstice feast was appropriated by Christianity and St. John was assigned to it. During the festival, fires burn all night, and people stay up until dawn drinking beer and eating a special cheese made with caraway. Even today, Jani is strongly associated with magic and considered to be a time when the veil between the worlds is thin. Houses are decorated with Rowan to protect people from evil Witches, although birch, oak, and fern are often used instead. It is still considered the best time to gather herbs for maximum magical potency.

Jannat y Persian name: Ar: jannah "garden" and junaynat "garden"-used for the Islamic concept of "heaven" and "paradise."

Jantan c Malay: jan tan "male," "stag," "manly."

Jantra Y `Thai name-chanthara "moon."

January a' Y Latin: ianuarius "January." January and February were late additions to the Roman calendar, which is why the months which still bear numerical meanings-September, October, November, and December-all have a two month discrepancy between their meaning and their actual place in the calendar. January was named after JANUS. Januarius was used as a given name in the late Roman period, and a number of saints bear the name, the most famous being the patron saint of Naples. In the ESW, use since the seventeenth century is more likely to be the English surname, derived from GENOA. It: Gennaro, Sp:Jenaro, W: Ionawr. Bearers: January Jones (b. 1978), the American actress.

Janus c~ Roman God of doors and beginnings, who gives his name to the month of January and was depicted with two heads, one looking forwards, the other back. The Romans believed that how a person began any undertaking was critical to its success and so Janus was invoked not only at the start of any new venture but at the start of every day, month, and year. L: ianus "covered passage" < eo "to go."The identical surname derives from JOHN, and is probably responsible for many examples of Janus as a

given name since the eighteenth century; King John II of Cyprus (1375-1432) was also known as Janus. A moon of Saturn discovered in 1966 is called Janus.

Japhet cc Meaning "may he expand" in Hebrew (presumably in wisdom and dignity, rather than girth), Japhet was the name of one of the sons of Noah. 16th C. Var: Japheth.

Jara y Hindu Goddess, both beautiful and monstrous, who is believed to reside in every mortal home. San: jara "old." A Goddess of domestic happiness, prosperity, and health, she is also regarded as a night-eater of corpses, and later acquired links with Kali. There are some who believe she represents a pre-Indo-European Earth Goddess of the Indus Valley, the seeming opposite roles she plays not at odds with the notion of a Goddess of the Earth and thus of the cycle of life and death, both Crone and Maiden.

Jared c~ An exceptionally obscure biblical character, mentioned only in a genealogy as the father of Enoch, along with the fact he reputedly lived for 962 years. The meaning is disputed and is quite possibly not of Hebrew origin, although it may be Heb: yered "descended" or yared "rose." 16th C. Bearers: Jared Leto (b. 1971), the American actor and musician. There is a character called Jared in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series (2005-08).

Jarek c' Czech and Polish name, originally a pet-form of names beginning with jar "spring" or jary "fierce" and "strong," such as Pol: Jaroslaw and Cz: Jaroslav, combining jar/jary with slav "glory."

Jarilo c? An important Proto-Slavic God of fertility, vegetation, the spring, war, the moon, and harvest. His consort is the Goddess Marzanna. His worship survived in folk-tradition; spring festivals called Jarilo were celebrated in Russia, Belarus, and Serbia into the nineteenth century, and similar festivals were found elsewhere in the Slavic world, such as that of Zeleni Junji meaning "Green George," celebrated on the feast of St. George. Slavic jar "spring." Var: Jarovit, Gerovit. Pol: Jarilo, Ru: Yarilo, Serb, Cro: JURA, Juraj.

farina Y Tree Goddess worshipped by the Bakairi people of Brazil. 20th C.

Jarri C? The Hittite God of plagues and pestilence; his name, translated as "lord of the bow" derives ultimately from the same PIE root as CC: *eburo- "yew," the wood of choice for bows throughout the ancient world. Little is known about him, but the connection of archery and pestilence is reminiscent of Apollo.

Jarumi c Hausa: jaraumi "warrior"-specifically "courageous warrior." Used to describe any very courageous person. Var: Zarumi. Fem: Jaruma, Zaruma.

Jarvis e Medieval variant of GERVAIS, which gave rise to the surname. Use from the seventeenth century may represent the surname or a survival of the original name. Bearers: Jarvis Cocker (b. 1963), the musician; Jarvis Lorry, a character in Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859). Var: Jervis.

Jasmine ? Generally regarded as one of the "flower names" adopted at the end of the nineteenth century, jasmine first came into use in the sixteenth. Like Rose, it was early associated with the flower, but it almost certainly arose as a late variant of ISMENIA. Jessamine-often the preferred form of Jasmine in poetry in past centuries-also came into use as a given name at the end of the nineteenth century. Ruled by Jupiter and Earth, Jasmine, with its delicate flowers and sweet scent, is particularly associated with love and used in love spells. It symbolizes wealth, grace, and good-naturedness. Var: Jacamine, Jasamine. Jasimine, Jesemy, Jessema, Jessima, Jezmin, Josma (hist); Jasmin, Jazmin (mod); JESSAMY. Bearers: Princess Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin* (1992).

Jaso Y Anglicized form of Iaso, a Greek Goddess of healing. Gr: iasis "healing." 20th C.

Jason c? Jason's most famous historic antecedent is the Greek hero who led the Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece. In Greek, his name is Iasdn < Gr: iasis "healing." However, the reason Jason was first used as a given name in the ESW in the sixteenth century wasn't admiration for the Greek hero, but because it occurs in the New Testament as the name of a cousin of St. Paul and author of the biblical book of Ecclesiasticus. In the early Greek and Latin versions of the Bible, it occurs as Eason, and was rendered as

Jason by its English translators. Almost certainly, Eason represents the Hellenized form of a Hebrew name-probably JOSHUA. Var: Jayson, Jasen, Jaison, Jaysen, Jacen, Jaysun, Jaisen, Jazon (mod). Dim: JAY, Jace, Jayce, Jaz.

Jasper c' Medieval legend gave Gaspar or Caspar as the name of one of the three wise men (the others being Balthasar and Melchior), who first made their appearance in a mosaic in Ravenna in the sixth century, though names were not actually recorded until the eleventh. In the twelfth century their alleged relics were removed from Constantinople to Cologne, which became the centre of their veneration. The etymology is uncertain; it may derive from Persian: khazandar "treasurer." Jasper is also the name of a semi-precious stone, deriving from Gr: iaspis "jasper"-applied to any bright-colored type of chalcedony except for carnelian. It is believed to have strong nurturing qualities, and is often used to help relieve stress, clean the chakras, and dispel negativity. 14th C. Fr: Gaspard, Ger: Kaspar, Sp: Gaspar, It: Gaspare, Dut: CASPAR. Bearers: Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford (c. 1431-1495), the uncle of King Henry VII; Jasper Conran (b. 1959), the British fashion-designer; Jasper Hale, a vampire in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series (2005-08).

Jasvinder c~ Indian name. San: jasu "thunderbolt" + INDRA. Var: Jaswinder.

Jata 2 Jata is an Earth Goddess of the Dayak people of Borneo, who believe it was she who created and molded the world. Her male counterpart was Mahatala and together, as quarrelling hornbills, they created all the rivers and lakes. She dwells in the lower world, and in water, and also represents the moon, while Mahatala is of the upper world, the air, and the sun. Jata and Mahatala are sometimes regarded as a dual androgynous deity; Mahatala remains a hornbill, but Jata becomes a water-snake.

Jati c3' Malaysian name. Malay jati "teak." In Sanskrit, jati means "descent," "clan," and "breed," and is a term still used in India as part of the complex social class (caste) system.

Java Y The name of one of the islands of Indonesia, home of the country's capital, Jakarta. The meaning is uncertain; it may be Indonesian: jazi "far" or

"distant," or San: yava "barley"-for which the island was famous. Late 19th C.

Javan c3' Javan was a very minor character in the Bible, a son of Japhet, whose name may be from Heb: yayin "wine." Most early examples are, however, attempts to Anglicize IEUAN, just like JEVON-all the bearers are clearly Welsh. Later examples may be of the biblical name, but it is difficult to tell. "Javan" is also an adjective meaning "of JAVA," often used of species of wildlife, such as the Javan Tiger, now believed to be extinct in the wild. Bearers: Javan Haldane, a character in Katherine Kurtz's Deryni series (1970-).

Javed c Indian name. Persian: jawid "eternal." Var: Javid.

Javon c? Modern name of uncertain origin. It may have arisen as a combination of names, perhaps Jason and Devon-it is unlikely to be a coincidence that Javon first started to grow in popularity when Jason was at its most popular. It may also have evolved as a variant of JAVAN or JEVON; examples of Javon do exist in old records as a spelling variant of Jevon. Certainly, the fates of Javan, Javon, and Jevon are generally bundled together. Another variant, Jovan-which happens to be the Macedonian form of JOHN-is likely to have been inspired by the far more familiar Italian Giovanni (John), which is sometimes spelled Jovanny.

Jawahir c ? Arabic name jawahir "jewels."

Jay c? Y Jay's origins are complex and many-layered. In the ESW, it generally began life as a pet-form of names beginning with "j," especially JAMES, JASON, and JANE. Jay is also an English surname, sometimes found as Jaye, responsible for early examples of the name as a given name. 'Tbis surname is taken from the jay, an attractive Eurasian bird. OF: geai "chatterer" or L: GAIUS-said to have been the name of the bird in Roman times. Another name for the jay is the oak jackdaw, referring to its bold and noisy behavior in its habitat of choice. It is believed that jays may even play a part in spreading an oak forest, due to their tendency to bury acorns. Jay is also a traditional Indian boy's name from the San: jaya "victory." Var: JAE, Jai.

Jaya 2 Feminine form of the Indian name JAY. The Sanskrit jaya - from which the name derives - is chanted in some Hindu devotional songs to Krishna. 20th C.

Jayakrishna a Indian name. San: jaya "victory" + KRISHNA.

Jayant c~ Indian name. San: jayanta "victorious." Fem: Jayanti.

Jayashankar c Indian name. San: jaya "victory" + Shankar. Shankar is a form of Shankara, a name for Shiva meaning "benevolent" in Sanskrit.

Jayashree Y A name of the Indian Goddess Lakshmi in her capacity as a Goddess of victory. San: jaya "victory" + shree - a respectful term of address used for any superior, including Gods and Goddesses.

Jayden f Y A modern coinage, combining JAY with the suffix -den. Var: Jaden, Jaiden, Jaydon, Jaeden, Jaedon. The similar Jaylen was created by combining JAY with the suffix -len. Var: Jalen, Jaelen. Mid-20th C.

Jayla Y Jayla was coined in the mid-twentieth century by combining JAY with the suffix -la. Var: Jaylee, Jayleigh, Jayley, Jayleen, Jaylene, Jaylin, Jaylyn. All of these are also found with the Jay part spelled Jae- and Jai-, although Jaela, may possibly have been intended by some as an elaborated form of JAEL.

Jazi Y 6 Swahili: jazi "reward," "gift," "compensation," and "abundance."

Jazz ' Y A modern short form of JAMES possibly influenced by the traditional abbreviation "Jas," which was often pronounced "jaz." It may also be used for other names beginning with "j" - in Britain, for instance, JASMINE and JASON are shortened to Jaz. The self-conscious adoption of "jazz" as a spelling is recent. Where the word itself comes from originally is unknown; it dates to the late nineteenth century.

Jean 2 f As a girl's name, jean is the Scottish form of JANE. Like Jane, it developed from the medieval form Jehane, and was the usual form of the name in Scotland from the sixteenth century. It spread to the rest of the ESW at the end of the nineteenth century. Dim: JEANIE, Jeannie. Var:

Jeane, Jeana (mod). As a boy's name, jean is the usual French form of JOHN. When used in the ESW it is often found (as it is in France) in combination with another name, such as Jean-Pierre or Jean-Yves. Bearers: Jean-Luc Picard, the captain of the Enterprise in the American television science-fiction series Star Trek: The Next Generation (1987-94). The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1961) is a novel by Muriel Spark, made first into a play, then in 1969 a film of the same name.

Jeanette Y French diminutive form of JEANNE and essentially the French equivalent of JANET. It was first used in Scotland in the eighteenth century, but wasn't much used elsewhere in the ESW until the nineteenth. Var: Jeannette, Janette, Jenette, Jeanett, Jeannet, Jeanet, Jeanetta, Janetta,

Jeannetta, Jenetta. Dim: Jinty (Sc). Bearers: Jeanette Winterson (b. 1959), a British novelist.

Jeanie Y Pet-form of JEAN mostly used in Scotland. It is also the name of a bogle or fairy who resides in Mulgrave Woods in North Yorkshire. Whether this is from the petform of Jean, a corruption of GENIE or, as is also quite possible, from an Old Norse name or word-perhaps jungfru meaning "princess" and "lady"-is difficult to say. Var: Jeannie. Jeannie, was a 2000-year-old genie in the American television series IDream ofjeannie (1965-70).

Jeanne Y French feminine form of JEAN used in the ESW from the nineteenth century, possibly in homage to Jeanne d'Arc-usually called Joan of Arc (c. 1412-1431) in English.

Jeb (' Jeb is mostly a nickname-quite non-specific-for various names beginning with "J" including JOHN, JAMES, and JACOB, or men whose initials are J.E.B, such as the well-known Confederacy General John Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart (1833-64). It is he who may be responsible for much of the name's general use. Jeb is also a short form of Jebediah, a nineteenth-century variant of JEDIDIAH.

Jedidiah f Biblical name. Heb: "friend of Yahweh"-an epithet of Solomon. 16th C. Var: Jedediah. Dim: Jed. Bearers: Jedidiah Morse (1761-1826), the geographer and father of Samuel Morse-inventor of the Morse code.

Jefferson f English surname, deriving from GEOFFREY. 17th C; in America, it was often used in the past in honor of president Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)-an example being the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis (1808-89).

Jehu f Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh is he." 16th C.

Jelka 2 Slovenian and Croatian name, arising as a pet-form of Jelena (see Helena). In Slovene, jelka also means "fir."

Jemima Y Jemima is traditionally said to mean "dove" or "little dove" in Hebrew-although no such word occurs in the Bible, where the word for dove is JONAH. Jemima actually far closer resembles yemamah "day"-hence the alternative interpretation of its meaning: "bright as the day." Jemima was the name of one of the daughters of Job, the others being Keziah and Kerenhappuch. 16th C. Dim: Jem, Jemmy, Mima. The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck (1908) is one of the children's stories by Beatrix Potter.

Jenica Y c~ As a girl's name, Jenica is the Spanish and Portuguese feminine of JENICO. As a boy's, Jenica is a petform of Eugen-the Romanian form of EUGENE.

Jenico c~ Medieval form of IGNATIUS found in Provence. It was introduced to England in the fifteenth century by the marriage of a daughter of Sir Jenico d'Artois to Christopher Preston, in whose family (later the Viscounts of Gormanstown) it has been used ever since.

Jeniver Y c~ Obsolete name for juniper, deriving from genevre, an older form of genievre-the French for juniper. Examples in past centuries almost certainly represent variant spellings of JENNIFER, which is completely unrelated. It is, however, related to the Dutch gin GENEVA.

Jenkin c~ British surname, developed from Jankin, a medieval pet-form of JOHN. Jenkin is particularly associated with Wales. W: Siencyn.

Jenna y Modern variant of JENNY. First used in the late nineteenth century. Bearers: Jenna Bush (b. 1981), daughter of George W. Bush, who was

named after her grandmother Jenna Hawkins Welsh (b. 1919); Jenna Stannis, a character in the British science-fiction television series *Blake's 7* (1978-81); Jenna Wade, a character in the American soap opera *Dallas* (1978-91)-often credited with being responsible for promoting the name in the 1980s. Var: Jena.

Jennet ? Medieval variant of JANET, which survived in country use and was revived in the twentieth century. Bearers: Jennet Jourdemayne is the principal character, accused of Witchcraft, in Christopher Fry's play *The Lady's Not for Burning* (1948); Jennet of Elsdon, a Witch in the British television drama *Robin of Sherwood* (1884-86); Jennet Bierley, one of the Samlesbury Witches acquitted for Witchcraft in 1612; Jennet Preston, one of the Pendle Witches, who was tried at York in 1612-and hanged.

Jennifer 2 A Cornish form of GUINEVERE, which survived to modern times, although at the end of the nineteenth century, it was barely known outside Cornwall. George Bernard Shaw introduced it to the rest of the ESW in his play *The Doctor's Dilemma* (1905), which features a character called Jennifer Dubedat. In Cornwall the spelling Jenifer was most frequently encountered in the past. Var: Jeniffer, Jenniffer, Jannifer, Jennefer, Jenefer (hist). Dim: JENNY; Jeni, Jenni, Jennie, Jen (mod). Bearers: Jennifer Jones (1919-2009), the American actress, whose real name was Phylis Lee Isley. Jennifer was the Witch-heroine of the 1942 comedy film *I Married a Witch*.

Jenny ? Although Jenny is now associated most with JENNIFER, in the past it was a pet-form of JANE, and used to be pronounced "JIN-ee." It has been used independently since at least the eighteenth century, and has seen much transferred usage, especially in ornithology. As well as jenny wren, jenny jay is a name for the jay in North Yorkshire, where jenny howler is used for a barn owl. Jenny owl is a Northumberland name for the barn owl, and jenny hoolet for the tawny. In Cheshire, a nightjar used to be called a jenny spinner, and in Yorkshire, a redstart a jenny redtail. Jenny or Jinny Greenteeth is the name given to a fresh-water mermaid of folklore, who dwells in lakes and lures children to her banks, dragging them into the water to drown and eat them. Bearers: Jenny Jones, a character in Henry Fielding's *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling* (1749); "Jenny" (1870) a

poem by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. "Pirate Jenny" is a song from Brecht and Weill's The Threepenny Opera (1928). Dim:Jen. Var:Jinny, Jenni, Jennie (mod); Djenne and Jenne-inspired by the historic African city, sometimes nicknamed "the jewel of the Niger."

Jen6 c~ Hungarian name. It is now treated as the Hungarian form of EUGENE, but it may well be of indigenous origin, being a name borne by one of the Magyar tribes which settled in the area that later became Hungary.

Jenson c~ English surname, meaning "son of Jen"-Jen being a medieval variant of pet-form of JOHN. 16th C. Bearers: Jenson Button (b. 1980), the British racing driver. Var:Jensen.

Jeopardy cc Y Middle English: iuparti < OF: iu parti "divided play" or "divided game"-originally applied to games such as chess, where an outcome was difficult to predict; it was actually the usual name for chess in medieval times. Before the Middle Ages were out, it had acquired its senses of "stratagem," "uncertainty," "chance," and "peril." 20th C.

Jepson c~ English surname deriving from GEOFFREY. 17th C. Dim: Jep.

Jeremiah c~ Biblical name. Heb: "may Yahweh exalt (him)." 16th C. Var: Jeremias (Gk). Bearers: Jeremiah Horrocks (1618-41), the English astronomer; Jeremiah Collins, a character on the American Gothic soap opera Dark Shadows (1966-71); Jeremiah (2002-04) was an American sciencefiction drama series.

Jeremy e English form of JEREMIAH. 13th C. Dim: JERRY, Jerrie, Jem. Bearers: Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), the British philosopher and social reformer, Jeremy Irons (b. 1948), the British actor; Jeremy Fisher, the eponymous hero of Beatrix Potter's Tale of Mr Jeremy Fisher (1906).

Jerica Y Modern name, probably a blend of names such as Jeremy and Jessica, or an adaptation of JERICHO. There is a small town in Spain called Jerica, which an illegitimate son of King James II was made Duke of in 1707, but this is almost certainly a coincidence. Var: Jerika, Jericka, Jericca. 20th C.

Jericho c 2 The name of the city in the West Bank, close to the River Jordan, and one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world (Aleppo and Damascus also like to claim the title). Archaeological evidence demonstrates it has been inhabited for at least nine thousand years. It was famously attacked by Joshua, "and the walls came tumbling down." The etymology is uncertain; it may derive from a Caananite word reah "fragrant," cognate with the modern Arabic name for the city-Ariha (and probably also the Hebrew Yariho). It may, however, be from the Caananite yareah "moon," from which YARIKH also derives-the city was a centre for the worship of lunar deities. Like other place names in the Bible, Jericho was adopted as a given name in the seventeenth century, as a male name. It is now also starting to be used for girls. Var: Jerico.

Jerome cc Anglicized form of Hieronymus. Gr: hieros "sacred" + onuma "name." St. Jerome (d. 420 CE) was responsible for translating the Bible from Greek into Latin. He was a popular saint in the Middle Ages, especially in Italy, where his name became Geronimo and Girolamo, and France where it developed into Jerome. In British medieval records it is mostly found in the Latin forms Geronimus and Jeronimus and the vernacular forms Geronim and Jeronim (as well as numerous variations therein). It was, however, early confused with an Old German name Gerram, taken to Britain by the Normans, which derived from OG: ger "spear" + hraben "raven." Surnames such as Jerome, Jerams, and Gerham could derive from either. Dim: JERRY. Dut: Jeroen, Sp: Jeronimo. Bearers: Hieronymus Bosch (c. 1450-1516), the Dutch satirical painter.

Jerry cc The usual short form of names beginning with Jer-, such as JEREMY and JEROME. Also used as a variant of GERRY. 19th C.

Jerubaal c? Biblical name. Heb: "BAAL strives"-another name of Gideon in the Bible. 17th C. Var: Jeruba'al.

Jesmond Y c A name of uncertain origin, mostly found in Lancashire between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. It is probably a localized variant of ISMENIA. It never quite died out, and is still found from time to time, sometimes as a boy's name, when it may be represent an adoption of the very rare surname deriving from the same source. Var: Jessimond, Jismond, Jesmaine, Gismond.

Jessamy 2 An old form of JASMINE. The Jessamy Bride was a name which the eighteenth-century Anglo-Irish playwright Oliver Goldsmith gave to a certain Miss Horneck, with whom he was supposedly in love. Late 18th C. Var: Jessamie. Bearers: Lady Jessamy MacAthán, a character in Katherine Kurtz's Deryni series (1970-).

Jesse e Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh exists," sometimes translated as "God is." It was the name of the father of David, and as such Jesse is considered the founder of his house. In some old British churches, windows called Jesse Windows can be found showing the supposed descent from Jesse to Jesus. 16th C. Var: JESSIE. Bearers: Jesse James (1847-82), the American outlaw; Jesse Jackson (b. 1941), the American civil rights activist.

Jessenia Y The name of a South American plant, usually known by the botanical name of Oenocarpus. The etymology is obscure, but in all likelihood the word is a Spanish form of a word of indigenous origin. See also Yesenia.

Jessica Y A name which makes its first appearance in Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice. There is a minor character in the Bible known as Ischah today, but called Jesca in Shakespeare's time. Heb: yiskah "he beholds." Shakespeare probably adapted this name-or simply even misremembered it. Late 18th C. Var: Jessika, Jesica, Jesika, Jessicah. Dim: JESSIE, Jessi, Jessy, Jess. Bearers: Lady Jessica in Frank Herbert's Dune series (1965-85); Jessica 6 in William F. Nolan's Logan's Run (1967); Jessica Rabbit in Who Framed Roger Rabbit? (1988). Jessica was a 1962 film starring Maurice Chevalier.

Jessie Y Scottish pet-form of JANET, used independently since at least the nineteenth century. Nowadays it is treated mostly as a pet-form of JESSICA, while in America, it is used as a variant of JESSE. Var: Jessi, Jessy, Jessye. Dim: Jess. Sc Ga: Teasag. Bearers: Jessie Pope (1868-1941), a British writer and poetess who wrote jingoistic poems during World War I -Wilfred Owen's poem "Dulce et Decorum est" (1917) was originally directed at her. Jessy: or the Bridal (1770) was a novel published by "a Lady"; "Jessie, the Flower of Dunblane" is a poem by Robert Tannahill in honor of his sweetheart Janet Tennant (1770-1833).

Jesus G~ Anglicized form of Latin *lesus* < Greek *lesu* < YESHUA, the Aramaic version of JOSHUA-an extremely common name in Palestine in the first century CE. Largely considered too sacred for use in the ESW, it has long been bestowed in Spain and Latin America-originally for boys born on the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.'The Welsh Druid William Price called his son Jesus Christ in 1883. When baby Jesus died at the age of five months, Price's attempts to cremate his body on a funeral pyre was the catalyst which led to the opening of the first crematoria and the Cremation Act of 1902, and the re-establishment of cremation as a funeral practice again after a gap of a thousand years or so. Fem:Jesusa (Sp).

Jet ' Y The name of the hard semi-precious black stone popular in Victorian jewelry and found mostly at Whitby in North Yorkshire, England. Used for talismans since the Stone Age, jet is valued for its ability to protect and draw out negativity. It is also believed that jet becomes a part of the body of its wearer, which is why when bought second-hand it needs really thorough cleansing. OF: *jaiet*, *jayet* < Gr: *gagates* "jet"-Pliny the Elder said it took its name from the River Gages in Lycia, and Gagae, the town on its banks. Mid-20th C. Var: Jett; Jetta Y. "Jet" was a 1974 song by Paul McCartney and Wings.

Jeta 2 A Romani name of uncertain meaning. It may be from JET, though this isn't very likely. A more likely source is Jita-used as a girl's name in modern India. San: *jita* "conquered."

Jethro ' Biblical name. Heb: *yeter* "abundance" and "excellence." 16th C. Bearers: Jethro Tull (1674-1741), the agricultural reformer.'The folk-rock band Jethro Tull (1967-) is named after him.

Jetsun c Y Tibetan name-*rje* "lord" + *btsun* "learned" and "venerable." A honorific title, used of teachers and deities.

Jevon c~ Old Anglicized form of IEUAN, which survived until the twentieth century in the English Marches. Jevon is also a surname, which may have played a part its use. In part, the surname shares the same origin as the Welsh name, but it also derives from OF: *jovene* < L: *iuvenis* "young." Jevon came into general usage in the late twentieth century.

Jewel Y Old French: joel, possibly from L: gaudium "joy" or iocor "to joke." Late 19th C. Var: Jewell, Jewelle. Bearers: Jewel Kilcher (b. 1974), the American singer.

Jezanna 2 To the Mashona people of Zimbabwe, Jezanna is the Goddess of the moon and fertility-her sphere extends to children as well as crops and cattle. Jezanna is the Anglicized form of Shona: Njedzana "moon"-specifically "new moon."

Jezebel 2 Jezebel is the name of a Phoenician princess, wife of King Ahab of Israel. She is a woman who has been vilified across the centuries-for what, exactly? In a nutshell, staying true to her own faith and refusing to convert to Ahab's; for being a strong-minded, independent woman, who fought against the overweening fanaticism of the maledominated Judaism of the time-and for wearing lipstick. She is described in Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary as "passionate in her attachment to heathen worship, she spared no pains to maintain idolatry around her in all its splendor." Worst of all, "the idolatry ... was of the most debased and sensual kind." Off with her head! She was accused of persecuting Hebrew prophets, yet it was she who was murdered-by being thrown out of a window on the orders of the prophet Jehu.'The meaning of her name has traditionally been given as "not exalted." In fact, it almost certainly meant "maiden of Baal"-later misrepresented as "whore of Baal." Because of the slur campaign against her over two and a half thousand years and more, her name has acquired taboo status-although those quirky Puritan folk still used the name in the sixteenth century.Jezebel (1938) is one of Bette Davis's best-known films, while Jezebel Baley is a character in Isaac Asimov's Robot series (1950-85). The Common Jezebel is a species of attractive butterfly found in Asia.

Jharana Y Indian name. Hindi: jharana "waterfall." San: Jhara "waterfall" is also used.

Jia 2 Chinese name. Mand: jik "excellent"; jid "butterfly".

Jiao Y c~ Chinese name. Mand: jido "lovable," "tender," and "delicate"; Jiao "bright" and "sparkling." Jido also means "scaly dragon ; in Chinese mythology, a jiaolong is a type of aquatic dragon.

Jiaoren y Mandarin: Jiao "scaly dragon" + ren "person," a jiaoren is the Chinese equivalent of a mermaid.

Jidgey Y Another name for St. Issy, an obscure Cornish saint. The origin is unknown.

Jill y Originally a short form of GILLIAN, Jill has long been used independently. Dim: Dilly, Jillie. Var: Gill. Bearers: Jill Murphy (b. 1949), the British author best known for the Worst Witch series (1974-2007); Jill Pole is a main character in C.S. Lewis's The Silver Chair, part of the Chronicles of Narnia; "Jack and Jill" is a traditional English nursery rhyme, dating to at least the eighteenth century, in which some believe survive hints of the Pagan Norse myth of a brother and sister taken by the moon as they fetched water from a well.

Jin a' Chinese name. Mand: jan "gold."

Jinan c? Y Arabic name jannah "garden."

Jing a 2 Chinese name. Mand: jang "capital"; "energy," "perfect," "excellent"; jing "bright"; Jing "still" and "calm."

Jinhai cc Chinese name. Mand: jan "gold" + hai "sea."

Jinnee a' Y Anglicized form of the Arabic jinni "demon" and "spirit." It is not used as a name in the Arabic-speaking world, but a couple of twentieth-century examples exist of it in use in the ESW. Strictly speaking, Jinnee is male. Jinniyeh, is feminine. Var: Jinniyah, Jinniya, Jiniya, GENIE.

Jintana Y Thai name-chintana "to imagine." In Thai, chintana kan means "imagination" and "fantasy."

Jioni Y Swahili:jioni "evening."

Jiro c? Japanese name used to denote a second son, composed ofji "second" + rd "son."

Jitendra c Indian name. San: jita "conquered" + INDRA. Var: Jeetendra, Jitender, Jitinder.

Jitrenka Y Czech name jittenka "morning star" and "aurora " < jitro "morning."

Jive c~ ? Today, "jive" is mostly associated with the name of the dance which developed as a form of the jitterbug in the 1930s, and at its most popular during World War II. It originally meant "empty chatter" or "misleading talk," and was a term much used by the musicians in jazz bands in the late 1920s and during the '30s.

Jo Y c? Principally a short form of girls' names beginning with Jo-, especially JOANNA, JOANNE, and JOSEPHINE-although it is sometimes found as a variant of Joe (see Joseph). Used independently since the late nineteenth century, often in combinations, such as Mary Jo.

Joab Y Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh is father." 16th C.

Joachim c~ Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh will establish." It was the name of a King of Judah and in later tradition was ascribed to the father of the Virgin Mary, which led to its use across Christendom in the Middle Ages. Jehoiakim is the form usually used in the Old Testament. Ru: Akim, Yakim, Get, Dan: Joachim, Cat, Port: Joaquim, Sp: Joaquin, It: Gioachino, Gioacchino, Scand: Joakim, Galician: Xaquin. Bearers: Joachim of Fiore (c. 1135-1202), a mystic and esoteric theologian; Joachim Hezensohn, beheaded for Witchcraft in Waldsee, Germany in 1557; Joaquin Phoenix (b. 1974), the Puerto Rican-born actor.

Joan Y A feminine form of JOHN, in use since the twelfth century as the English vernacular form of JOHANNA. In the sixteenth century it began to be supplanted by JANE, although it never died out altogether, and was revived in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Var: Johan, Johne (hist). Dim: JONET (hist); Joanie, JONI (mod). Bearers: Joan, Countess of Kent (1328-85), a.k.a. the Fair Maid of Kent; Pope Joan (11th C), a legendary female pope; Joan of Arc (c. 1412-31), the "Maid of Orleans," who was burnt at the stake for Witchcraft; Joan Allen, a woman hanged at the Old Bailey in London for Witchcraft in 1650; Joan Hunt, hanged for Witchcraft in Middlesex in 1615. Joan Cunny, Joan Prentice, and Joan Upney were all hanged for Witchcraft at Chelmsford in 1589. Joan of Navarre (1370-1437), wife of King Henry IV of England, was convicted and imprisoned

for four years for Witchcraft in 1419. Joan Wytte (1775-1813), known as the "Fighting Fairy Woman of Bodmin" died in prison accused of Witchcraft.

Joanna, Johanna Y Johanna was the form of Joan or Jane found in medieval and early modern records, though the bearers were almost certainly called Joan in daily life. A character called Joanna in the New Testament led to its readoption in the sixteenth century. Var: Johannah, Joannah, JoAnna (mod). Dim: JO (mod). Bearers: Joanna Southcott (1750-1814), the self-proclaimed English prophetess now most noted for the box of prophecies she left behind which were to be opened in a time of national crisis in the presence of all bishops; Joanna Bailie (1762-1851), the Scottish poet and playwright; Joanna Harrison, executed for Witchcraft in Hertford with her daughter in 1606; Joanna Lumley (b. 1946), the British actress; Joanna Cameron (b. 1951), an American actress best known for playing Isis in the American television series *The Secrets of Isis* (1975-77).

Joanne 2 Joanne is sometimes said to be a medieval French form of JANE resurrected, but it is more likely to have been invented simply as a variant of JOANNA, or even a combination of JO with ANN. Late 19th C. Dim: JO. Bearers: Joanne Woodward (b. 1930), the American actress; Joanne Harris (b. 1964), the British novelist-said to be the great grand-daughter of a Witch; Joanne Rowling (b. 1965), usually known by the initials J.K.-author of the *Harry Potter* series.

Job o~ Biblical name. Heb: "hated" or "persecuted." Despite its meaning, it was used as a given name in medieval times, almost certainly because it featured in the Mystery plays. It was taken up with renewed vigor along with all the other Biblical names by zealous sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Protestants. The surname Job and its variants-Jubb, Jupe, Jupp-have a number of sources as well as Job itself There was a medieval nickname "joppe" from OF:jobe "fool"; ME: jubbe orjobbe was the name of a large vessel, perhaps used of someone who carried them, made them-or resembled them; lastly, ME:jube orjupe was a type of garment and may have been used metonymically for someone who made, sold, or wore them.

Jocasta Y The name of the mother of Oedipus by Laius, King of the Thebes-she inadvertently married her son after he unwittingly killed his

father. It has been used as a given name since the seventeenth century, though it is met with earlier as a Latinized form of Joyce-to which it is entirely unrelated-as is the case with Joyce Culpeper (c. 1480- 1531), the mother of Catherine Howard, fifth wife of King Henry VIII. The etymology is obscure; but it certainly doesn't derive from L: iocor "to joke" or iocosus "merry." The most likely source is Gr: ioke "pursuit," "attack," and "onslaught." his was also the name of a Goddess, a personification of attack, who went hand in hand with Eris (strife) and Alce (strength).

Jocelyn 2 d Usual modern form of Jocelin, a name introduced into Britain by the Normans in forms such as Goscelin and Gozelin. The origin isn't clear. The most likely option is that it represents an ethnonym-deriving from a Germanic tribe called the Gauts-almost certainly deriving from the same source as the Goths.'This is thought to come from the River Gota in Sweden, believed by many to be the original homeland of the Goths-the river gets its name from a Proto-Germanic root meaning "to pour."The Gauts were also called the Gautelen, which is sometimes translated as "little Goths."Another possible source is the Breton Jodoc (see Joyce). In the seventeenth century, the name was bolstered by the adoption of the surname derived from it, and it experienced a general revival in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth, it has increasingly been used for girls. Var: Joselyn, Joseline, Jocelin, Joycelin, Josslyn, Joscelin, Josceline, Jocelina, Joselina, and Joscelina. Dim: JOSS. Fr: Jocelyne. Bearers: Jocelyn "Joss" Stone (b. 1987), the American singer. Joccelina, or The Rewards of Benevolence (1797) was a novel by Isabella Kelly. Jocelyn (1898) was a novel by John Galsworthy, part of the Forsyte Saga (1906-21).

Jock c~ Traditional Scottish pet-form of JOHN, the equivalent of the English JACK, although Jack is now used for baby boys in Scotland itself, and Jock is barely heard there at all anymore-probably because Jock has been used as a generic name for a Scotsman since the eighteenth century.

Jody 2 a Jody emerged in America in the late nineteenth century. As a boy's name, it probably evolved as a variant of GEORDIE or pet-form of JUDE-possibly even JOSEPH; as a girl's, it is a variant of JUDY-perhaps also

JOSIE. Var: Jodie, Jodi, Jodene, Jodena. Bearers: Jodie Foster (b. 1962), the American actress-whose real name is Alicia.

Joel Joel has two distinct origins. Its use from the sixteenth century is largely down to the biblical name-Heb: "Yahweh is (a) God." Its appearance in medieval times was as a variant of the Breton name Judicael. By the time the Normans took the name to Britain, this had become Juhel, and occurs in the forms Joel, Juel, Jowell and Jewell. Breton: iud "lord" + CC: *kall- "wood" or "grove" from which the Irish caill and Welsh celli derives. Bearers: Joel S. Goldsmith (1892-1964), the founder of the Infinite Way movement; Joel Hodgson (b. 1960), the American writer and comedian, creator of the Mystery Science Theater 3000 series (1988-99).

Joelle Y Feminine form of JOEL, probably a direct borrowing of the French Joelle. 20th C. Var: Joella, Joela, Joelene, Joely. Bearers: Joely Richardson (b. 1965), the British actress.

Joh c~ Egyptian moon God. Egyptian: jaH"moon."

Johan ci Malaysian name. Malay: johan "champion," "world," and "universe." It is also a form of JOHN used in Germany, Holland, and Scandinavia.

Johari Y Swahili: johari "jewel."

John cc The English form of Hebrew Johanan "Yahweh has favored"; John developed from the Latin form Iohannes, later Johannes < Gr: Idannes. Johanan was an extremely common name amongst Jews in the first century CE, and, as the name of John the Baptist and the Evangelist responsible for one of the Gospels and the Book of Revelation, it was always going to become a popular name among the Christians. St. John the Baptist was regarded as second only to Jesus-so it should come as no surprise that when Jesus got the festival of the Winter Solstice for his feast day, John was apportioned its summer counterpart. The name wasn't used much in Western Europe until the First Crusade (1095-99), after which hundreds of churches were dedicated to St. John, and the name was bestowed upon countless baby boys. Var: Jon (mod). Dim: JACK, JAKE, JOCK, Johnny, Johnnie, Jonny, HANK; Hankin, Hancock, Jankin, JENKIN (hist). Manx:

Ean, Jr Ga: EOIN, SEAN, It: Giovanni, Gianni; Gino (dim), Alb: Gjon, Ger: Hans, Johann, Johannes, Fin: Hannu, Jani, Joni, Jukka, Maori: Hoani, Arm: Hovhannes, Sc Ga: IAN, Seon; Seonaidh (dim), Bul, W: IOAN, Gr: Ioannis, Giannis, Yannis, YANIS, W: IFAN, IEUAN, Iwan, SION, Basque, Rom: Ion Ru, Cz, Serb, Cro: Ivan, Dut, Pol: JAN, Est: Jaan, Slv: Janez, Lat: YANIS, Hun: Janos, Fr: JEAN, Dan: Jens, Port: Joao, Cat: Joan, Dut, Dan, Ger, Sw: JOHAN, Mac: Jovan, Cornish: JOWAN, Ice: Jon, Dut: Joop (dim), Sp: Juan, Haw: Keoni, Galician: Xoan, At, Turk: Yahya, Breton: Yann; YANNICK (dim). Bearers: King John of England (1167-1216); John Dee (1527-1608), the astrologer and ceremonial magician-among many other things; John Aubrey (1629-97), the English antiquarian, one of the first people to study Stonehenge; John Toland (1670-1722), the Irish philosopher, founder of the Ancient Druid Order in 1717; John Keats (1795-1821), the English poet; John Galsworthy (1867-1933), the English novelist; John Adams (1735-1826) and John F. Kennedy (1917-63), American Presidents. Numerous men tried and executed for Witchcraft have borne the name John, including John Proctor (c. 1632-92) and John Willard (bef. 1672-92) at Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, and John Lindsay (c. 1688-97), who was one of those convicted and executed at Paisley, Scotland, in 1697, aged just eleven years old.

Johnson c~ English surname-"son of JOHN." 16th C. Some of its use in America since the nineteenth century has probably been in honor of President Andrew Johnson (1808-75).

Jolan Y Hungarian form of YOLANDE-although some have proposed an indigenous origin: Hun: j6ledny "good girl." Dim: Jola, Jolanka; the latter featured in Andras Dugonics's Etelka (1788).

Jolene ? A twentieth-century creation, combining JO with the ending -lene. First used in the early 1930s, it was made well known by Dolly Parton's 1974 song of the name. Var:Joleen.

Jolie Y Jolie may have evolved as a variant of JULIE or be a direct adoption of the French jolie meaning "pretty" (and referring specifically to a female person or object). The French word shares the same ancestry as the English "jolly," and may derive ultimately from the Norsejo/-YULE. Its

recent use, however, has almost certainly been influenced by Angelina Jolie (b. 1975), the American actress. 20th C.

Jolnir e A byname of Odin. ON: jol "Yule."

Jolyon c~ Variant of JULIAN encountered in the fifteenth century. Jolyon Forsyte was a principal character in Galsworthy's Forsyte Saga (1906-21), which led to its revival in the early twentieth century.

Jonah Biblical name. Heb: yonah "dove." The tale of Jonah and the whale was popular in the Middle Ages, and Jonah is found from the thirteenth century in the Greek form Jonas still the usual form in Germany and Scandinavia. Jonah came into use itself in the sixteenth century. In the past, it was a byword for someone who brought misfortune on his companions, just as Jonah did, when fleeing from his God.

Jonathan c~ Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh has given." Jonathan is the son of King Saul and friend of David in the Bible. 16th C. Var: Jonathon, Johnathan, Johnathon. Dim: Jon, Jonny, Jonty. Bearers: Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), the Irish writer best known for Gulliver's Travels (1726); Jonathan Levinson, a character in the American television series *Baywatch* (1997-2003); Jonathan Creek (1997-2010), a British television mystery series; Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norell (2004), a novel by Susanna Clarke.

Jonet Y A medieval pet-form of JOAN, which was also used independently in the period. It survived in rustic use into the eighteenth century and was revived in the twentieth. Bearers: Jonet Allen, burnt for Witchcraft in Scotland in 1661.

Joni Y o~ Most occurrences of Joni are as a pet-form of JOHN or JOAN, and date from the 1950s. The name was suddenly promoted by Joni James (b. 1930), whose first single "Why Don't You Believe Me?" (1952) was a smash hit. Her birth name was actually Giovanna Babbo. Joni is also an old Romani name, in use since at least the late nineteenth century. It is probably simply the Romani form of Joan or JANE.

Jonka Y 'he name of a woman tried for Witchcraft in Scotland in 1616. What happened to her is unknown. Jonka is probably a pet-form of JOAN.

Jonquil Y 'he name of the flower-a type of narcissus which is also used to describe a shade of yellow. Fr: jonquille < Lat: iuncus "a rush"-a reference to the rush-like nature of the leaves. 20th C.

Jophiel The name of one of the archangels. Heb: "beauty of (a) God." He is thought by some to have taught the Kabbalah to Moses.

Jordan 2 'here was an Old German name Jordanes, probably deriving from the same root as ON: joro "earth." However, the use of the name in the Middle Ages is probably due to returning Crusaders in whose minds Jordan was firmly associated with the name of the river flowing through Palestine.'he meaning is simply "flowing down" in Hebrew. It became the custom among the Crusaders to take back water from the river to baptize their children. In the sixteenth century, Jordan was reinforced when surnames began to be used as given names, but did not become widespread until the twentieth.'he rise in America of the name for boys occurs the year after F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925) was published, which features a character called Jor dan Baker-who is in fact a girl. Numerous characters in medieval times bore the name, such as two princes of Capua of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Dim: JUDD. Var: Jordyn, Jordana Y. It: Giordano, Dut: Jordaan, Joord.

Joseph c~ The name of one of the most popular characters in the Bible. Heb: "May Yahweh add" (more children is understood-somewhat greedy since Jacob already had ten other sons when Joseph was born) or "Yahweh added." It was one of the most popular Jewish names in the first century CE, and as Joseph-the husband of the Virgin Mary-is revered in the Catholic Church as a saint, it has been popular among Catholics since the Middle Ages. After the Reformation, the Old Testament Joseph-of Technicolor Dreamcoat fame-ensured the name remained popular. Dim: Jos, Joe, Joey; Jojo (mod). It: Giuseppe; Beppe (dim), Maltese: Guzeppi, Maori: Hohepa, Arm: Hovsep, Ru: Iosef, Osip, W: Ioseff, Est: Joosep, Fin: Jooseppi, Juuso, Sp: Jose; Pepe (dim), Basque: Joseba, Cz, Dut, Ger, Scand and Czech: Josef, Cat: Josep, Alb, Pol, Slov: Jozef, Slv: Josef, Hun: Jozsef; Jozsi, Joska (dim), Lith: Juozapas, Juozas, Jr Ga: Seosamh, Sc Ga:

Sebsaidh, Ger: Sepp (dim), Galician: Xose, Mod Heb: Yosef, Ukr: Yosyp, Ar: Yusuf. Bearers: Josephus (c.37-100 CE), the Jewish historian, whose detailed history of first-century Judea is glaring in its omission of any account of Jesus and his activities; Joseph of Arimathea (fl. 1st C CE-allegedly), who reputedly brought the Holy Grail to England-and planted the Glastonbury `lhorn.

Josepha, Josephina Y Feminine forms of JOSEPH. 17th C. It: Giuseppina, Get, Port, Scand, Sp: Josefa, Fr: Josephe, JOSEPHINE.

Josephine Y French feminine form of JOSEPH. It was brought to the attention of the ESW in the early nineteenth century by Marie Josephe "Josephine" Rose de Beauharnais (1763-1814), the first wife of the Emperor Napoleon. Var: Josefine. Dim: FIFI, Josie, JO, Josi, Josey, Josy, Pheeny.

Joshua c~ Deriving from the Hebrew Yehoshua "Yahweh is a help," the meaning is often stretched to mean "Yahweh is (my) salvation"-the favored meaning held by Evangelical Christians, as the Aramaic form YESHUA was the "real" name of Jesus. The Joshua tree is a common name of the North American Yucca brevifolia. 16th C. Dim: Josh, Joshie, Joshy. Fr, Port, Sp: Josue. Bearers: Joshua Sylvester (1563- 1618), the English poet; Joshua Reynolds (1723-92), the English artist. "Joshua" (1894) was a popular Music Hall bal lad, which featured the lines: "nicer than lemon squash you are/yes, by gosh you are! MyJoshu, Oshu-a!"

Josiah cc Biblical name. Heb: "may Yahweh heal." 16th C. Var: Josias (Gr). Dim: Josh. Bearers: Josiah Wedgwood (1730-95), the English potter, and grandfather of Charles Darwin; Josiah Warren (1798-1874), the American philosopher and writer, often regarded as America's first anarchist.

Joss cc Y Joss is mostly a short form of JOCELYN, although there is also a surname deriving from JOYCE, and as a result it is found in independent use from as early as the seventeenth century. In the past, "joss" was also a word to describe figures of Chinese and Buddhist Gods in their temples. Javanese: dejos "Chinese idol" < Port: deos "(a) God." this use survives most now in the expression "joss stick"largely used of incense sticks, but sometimes of cones also.

Jotham e Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh is perfect." 16th C.

Jotun c~ Anglicized form of Jotunn. ON: jQtunn "giant" < eta "to eat"-cognate with the English ETTIN. The Jotnar (plural of Jotunn) is the name given to the race of giant-like creatures, which came into being from the armpits of Ymir while he slept. By and large they became the trolls of later Scandinavian folklore. Var: Jotunn.

Jouko c? Finnish name-a short form of Joukahainen, the name of a character in Elias Lonrot's Finnish language epic the Kalevala (1849). In losing a spell-casting contest, Joukahainen is forced to betroth his sister to his elderly victor.

Journey ? For many Pagans, life is a spiritual journey in which we change and develop our whole lives through. Fr: journee "day"-it early acquired the meaning of a "day's travel" < L: diurnus "daily" < dies "day." There is also a surname Journey-also found as Jerny and Jarmy-almost certainly a corruption of Jarmey < JEREMY. 19th C.

Jove c~ An alternative English form of JUPITER. It derives from L: Iovis-the genitive form of Jupiter < PIE: *deyw-o-. Although it bears a superficial resemblance to Jehovah, it is probably not etymologically related.

Jowan c' Now regarded as the Cornish form of JOHN, Jowan was also used in Wales in the early modern period. It had fallen almost entirely out of use by the start of the eighteenth century, but was revived in Cornwall in the 1960s and has since begun to spread.

Joy ? Found as early as the twelfth century in forms such as Joia and Joye, Joy may have been a direct adoption of the English "joy." OF: joie < L: gaudium "joy." It did not survive the Middle Ages, and was revived at the end of the nineteenth century. Var: Joi.

Joyce Y cc An old Breton name, introduced into Britain from France at the time of the Normans. The original form was Jodoc. Breton: iud "lord" + dim. suffix -cc. The variant Jocosa suggests that even in medieval times the name was being associated with L: iocosus "merry." Joyce fell out of use as

a man's name by the end of the Middle Ages, but just about survived as a girl's name, until revived at the end of the nineteenth century, largely as a result of its appearance in Edna Lyall's historical novel *In the Golden Days* (1885). Var: Josse, Jocey, Jossy, Jodocus, Jodoca, Jocea, Juicea (hist). Dim: JOY. Bearers: Joyce Grenfell (1910-79), the AngloAmerican actress, comedienne, and songwriter; Joyce Summers, a character on the American television drama *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003). Joyce Smythe was tried for Witchcraft in Ramsey, Essex in 1582; her fate is unknown.

Joyous Y Gc Adoption of the English adjective deriving from JOY. There are one or two occurrences in the seventeenth century, though these may represent a variant spelling of JOYCE. Otherwise, use has been since the early twentieth century.

Jozafat cc A Polish name derived from the biblical Jehoshaphat-Hebrew: "Yahweh has judged." Borne by a sixteenth-century Polish saint.

Jubal cc Biblical name. Heb: yobel "stream" and "ram" particularly "ram's horn used as a trumpet to proclaim a jubilee year," hence also "jubilee." 17th C. Var: Jubel. Bearers: Jubal Harshaw, a major character in Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* (1961).

Jubilee ? cc French: jubile < Late L: jubilaeus < Gr: iobelaïos < Hebrew yobel "jubilee" (see Jubal). 19th C.

Judd cc Although regarded as the short form of JORDAN since the Middle Ages, it is possible that where the name is found in Celtic areas-particularly Cornwall-that it in fact is connected with Celtic names such as Judwal (see Idwal). A character called Judd featured in a number of Winston Graham's Poldark novels (1945-2002).

Jude cc Y English form of biblical Judah. The ultimate meaning is uncertain; it may be "he leads" in Hebrew or be a contracted form of Yehudah "praised" or "he who is praised." Whatever its origins, it is the name from which the religion of Judaism takes its name. The Greek form Judas has become synonymous in English with "traitor," as it is the form of the name used for the apostle Judas Iscariot in the New Testament. His replacement was another Judah, and it is he who usually goes by the name

Jude. 16th C. Mod Heb: Yehudi. The girl's name Jude is a modern short form of JUDITH. Bearers: Jude Law (b. 1972), the British actor; Jude the Obscure (1896), a novel by Thomas Hardy; "Hey Jude" (1968), a song by the Beatles.

Judith y Biblical name. Heb: yebudit "Jewish (woman)." In the apocryphal Book of Judith, the heroine of the name goes to spend the night with the enemy general Holofernes, gets him drunk and decapitates him with his sword before taking his head back to the Israelite troops and inspiring them to victory. 9th C. Dim: JUDY; DUDE, Judi, Judie (mod). It: Giuditta, Hun: Judit; Juditka, Judika (dim), Cz, Slk: Judita; Jitka (dim), Fr, Ger, Sp: Judith, Pol: Judyta. Ger: Jutta, Jutte (dim). Bearers: Judith of Flanders (844-70), the daughter of Charles the Bald, King of France and wife of King /Ethelwulf of Wessex; Judith Quincy (1585-1662), daughter of William Shakespeare; Dame Judith "Judi" Dench (b. 1934), the British actress; Judith Moone, a woman brought to trial for Witchcraft in'Ilthorpe-le-Soken in 1645 by the "Witchfinder General" Matthew Hopkins; Judika Illes, the American writer of folklore, magic, and Witchcraft.

Judy y Pet-form of JUDITH. 19th C. Bearers: Judy Garland (1922-69), the American singer-born Frances Gumm. Judy also features in the traditional British puppet play Punch and Judy, which has been performed since at least the late seventeenth century and derives from the Italian commedia dell'arte.

Jujube c' 2 The Jujube was introduced into Europe from Syria during the reign of Emperor Augustus. The roots of the plant are used to treat fevers, and the berries are eaten both fresh and dried. A paste made with jujube berries is used as a demulcent. The fruit of the Zizyphus lotos is often thought to be what inspired the myth of the lotus-eaters, who, once they ate the plant's fruits and flowers, forgot their old lives. In Arabia, a type of bread resembling gingerbread is still made from the fruit of this variety. Fr: jujube < Late L: jujube < Gr: zizuphon "jujube."

Jules c~y Originally a French name derived from JULIUS, Jules is now used in the ESW, especially as a short form of JULIA, JULIAN, JULIE, and JULIET. Bearers: Jules Verne (1828-1905), the French novelist and science-fiction pioneer.

Julia Y The feminine form of JULIUS. Numerous members of the Roman imperial family bore the name, including the sister and daughter of Julius Caesar, and the daughter of the Emperor Augustus. A diminutive form Julilla-is also sometimes used by modern historians to refer to some female members of the imperial family. 16th C. It: Giulia, Rom: Julia, Jr Ga: 16ile, Get, Port, Sp: Julia, Hun: Julia; Juli, Juliska (dim), Turk: Julide, Fr: JULIE, Lith, Slv: Julija, Bul, Ru, Ukr: Yulia, Yuliya; Yulya (dim). Bearers: Julia Margaret Cameron (1815-79), the photographer and great-aunt of Virginia Woolf; Julia Roberts (b. 1967), the American actress; Julia Lennon (1914-58), mother of John, for whom he wrote "Julia" (1968). Its first appearance in English Literature seems to be in Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Julia Melville features in Sheridan's *The Rivals* (1775). A character called Julia is one of the principal protagonists of George Orwell's 1984 (1949).

Julian c? Y As a boy's name, Julian is the English form of the Latin Julianus "belonging to JULIUS," a common Roman surname, testified to by the number of saints of the name. It was also the name of the fourth-century Emperor Julian the Apostate, much maligned by Christian commentators and historians in the past. Julian, while re-embracing Paganism himself, did not so much try to re-Paganize the Empire as encourage religious tolerance. 13th C. As a girl's name, Julian is a medieval vernacular form of JULIANA. It was by far more common in medieval times for girls than for boys. Var: Jollan, John (hist). Dim: JULES, Jools, Jolly. Fr: Julien, Sp: Julian. Bearers: Julian of Norwich (c. 1342-c. 1416), one of England's greatest female mystics; Julian Cox, a woman executed for Witchcraft at Taunton in 1663; Julian Grenfell (1888-1915), the British war poet; Julian Lennon (b. 1963), the son of John Lennon, and a singer-songwriter.

Juliana Y The name of a popular medieval saint, reputedly martyred in Nicomedia, whose relics were revered in Brussels and Sablon. Introduced in the late twelfth century, it was one of the most popular names of the period, usually in the vernacular forms JULIAN and GILLIAN. Juliana itself was revived in the eighteenth century. Var: Julianne. Ger: Juliane, Ru: Yuliana. "Juliana" is a tenth-century poem about the saint by the mysterious Anglo-Saxon poet Cynewulf.

Julie Y French form of JULIA. 19th C. Var: Juli. Dim: Juliette-often used in the ESW as a variant of JULIET. Bearers: Julie Andrews (b. 1935), the British actress and singer.

Juliet Y Probably Shakespeare's most famous heroine from his most famous play. Shakespeare liked the name so much that he used it again in Measure for Measure. Romeo and Juliet was based on "Romeus and Juliet," a poem by Arthur Brooke of 1562. Brooke's source was a French poem of 1559 in which Juliet featured as Iuliette. This poem was translated into English by William Painter in 1562-with Iuliette as Julietta. The earliest-known version of the tale is the Italian *Giulietta e Romeo* (1530) by Luigi da Porto; Giulietta is simply a diminutive of Giulia, the Italian form of JULIA. Late 18th C. Bearers: Juliet Stevenson (b. 1956), the British actress. Juliet Burke was a character in the American television drama *Lost* (2004-10).

Julitta Y The name of a supposed early fourth-century saint martyred with her infant son in Tarsus. The origin is unclear; it may be derived from JULIUS or from another source-JUDITH has been suggested. 19th C.

Julius c? The gens Julia is probably the most famous of all the Roman families. It claimed descent from the Trojan hero Aeneas, son of Venus through his son Ascanius, who was also called Iulus. The legend has it that he was originally called Ilus-from Ilia, another name for Troy-but his name was corrupted. In fact, it is more likely that the name is a diminutive form of Iovis, the genitive of Jupiter, and that the family was originally dedicated to him. 16th C-often as Julius Caesar. Bearers: Julius Henry "Groucho" Marx (1890-1977), the American comic actor; Julius Rosenberg (1918-53), whose execution as a communist spy during the McCarthy era remains controversial. It: Giulio, Hun: Gyula, Fr: JULES, Port, Sp: Julio, Pol: Juliusz, Ru: Yuliy.

July Y The name of the summer month, which acquired its name in the first century BCE in honor of Julius Caesar. Late 19th C.

Jumal c? Estonian God of the sky, who makes the Earth fertile with summer thunderstorms. In the past, Southern Estonians kept a statue of him in their homes. Jumo is another variant found among the Mari-a Finnic

ethnic group of Russia. In the Bjarmaland-believed to be around the area of modern day Archangel in Russia-the God was worshipped as Jomali. Meanwhile, in Finnish Paganism,

Jumala is the name of a sky God, who is probably a dualdeity; after Finland was Christianized the name became the generic name for "a God" as well as specifically the Christian God. The names all come from the same Balto-Slavic root jum- "roof." See also Jumis.

Jumana y Arabic name juman "pearls." Var: Jumaina.

Jumis e Latvian sky God. Like Jumal, he is also a God of fertility, and is particularly associated with plants which have grown together, perhaps a hint that to the ancient Latvians he was a dual-deity. He is depicted as a short, clothed man with ears of wheat, barley, or hops. The "Catching of Jumis" is a ritual still performed at Mikeli-which essentially means "Michaelmas," although it is held on September 22-24, i.e. the Autumn Equinox. Some stalks are bent to the ground and secured with stones, and there is a procession in which grain is carried home-symbolizing a "captured Jumis"-to ensure the success of the following year's crop.

June Y The name of the month of the Summer Solstice, named after the Goddess JUNO. Late 19th C. Flaming June (1895) is probably Frederic, Lord Leighton's most famous painting, an iconic piece of the pre-Raphaelite movement. Var: Juna, Djuna-as borne by American writer Djuna Barnes (1892-1982). Dim:Junie.

Junia y Feminine form of JUNIUS. The name was borne by numerous Pagan Roman women, including the first century CE Junia Claudilla, first wife of the emperor Caligula. The name also occurs in the Bible as that of a woman who is praised by St. Paul. Late 16th C.

Juniper 5 Y The name of the shrub, the berries of which are famously used to make gin. The berries actually take two to three years to ripen, and the oil from them is used for digestive problems, and kidney and bladder diseases. In France, the berries used to be used for chest complaints also. L: iuniperus "juniper"; it derives from the same proto-Latin root which gave JUNO, combined with pareo "to produce." Juniper is also a rare surname,

which developed from JENNIFER. 19th C. The cartoon series *The Life and Times of Juniper Lee* (2005-7) has started to promote Juniper as a girl's name. It also features in American novelist Pamela Deans *juniper, Gentian, and Rosemary* (1998).

Junit 2 An Egyptian Goddess. Egyptian: jnt "(she who) was brought" < jnj "to bring." Junit was associated with Month, the falcon-headed God of war, and also occurs as an epithet of Sekhmet. 20th C.

Junius c? The name of a Roman family, the gens Junia. Its most famous son was Lucius Junius Brutus, one of the murderers of Julius Caesar. Traditionally derived from JUNO, from whom the family claimed descent. 16th C.

Junner cc In Norse mythology, Junner is a giant, said in the Prose Edda to be the "eternal principle"; his skull formed the heavens, his eyes the sun and moon, his bones the rocks, and his shoulders the mountains. As such, he is almost certainly one and the same with Ymir. His name may derive from ON: *jungherra* "young lord" or be a corrupted form of Jotnar-the plural form of JOTUN.

Juno y Roman Goddess, consort of Jupiter, who was identified by the Romans with Hera. She is the Goddess of marriage and-as Juno Lucina-of childbirth. As Juno Moneta she also governed financial matters and the Roman mint was located in her temple on the Capitoline Hill. Her name derives from the same root as L: *iuvenis*-youthful. The original root carried the sense of "vital force," consistent with Juno's role as a Goddess of childbirth. In the early nineteenth century, her name was given to a minor planet. Since it was first bestowed in the late sixteenth century, Juno has seen most use in Ireland, where it is treated as an English form of Una. Bearers: Juno Temple (b. 1989), a British actress. The film *Juno* (2007) has also raised the name's profile.

Jupiter a' The name of the supreme deity of the Roman Pantheon, equated by the Romans with the Greek Zeus. His name is more of a title than a name, meaning "heavenly father," reflecting his early role as a sky God. The first element of his name derives from PIE: **deyw-o-*. The Romans usually referred to Jupiter as *Jupiter Optimus Maximus* "Jupiter the Best

and the Greatest." His temple on the Capitoline Hill in Rome was considered one of the most sacred in the Roman Empire. Jupiter has seen use as a given name since the end of the seventeenth century in America, and from the nineteenth century in Britain. It is possible that in some cases this represents an adoption of the rare surname, though this only seems to have developed in the eighteenth century. It was, perhaps, first bestowed upon a foundling child or children, in the same way as the name was often given to slaves in the Americas. Bearers: Jupiter Hamon (1711-aft. 1790), a slave all his life, was the first AfricanAmerican to have a work published in America.

Jura Y c~ The name of a number of places, including a river in Lithuania; the part of the Alps on the French-SwissGerman border which gave its name to the Jurassic period; and the Scottish island noted for its single malt whisky. The latter two both derive from CC: *eburo- "yew". In the case of the island, it arose because of the number of yew trees that once grew there, and the yew forests which gave their name to the Alpine region still clothe its lower mountain slopes. The Lithuanian river means "sea" in Lithuanian. Jura is also one of the Serbo-Croatian forms of JARILO. 20th C.

Just 9 The English "just" derives from Latin JUSTUS. Late 16th C. Some usage may be an adoption of the rare surname, which also derives from Justus.

Justice Y The word "justice" derives from Latin JUSTITIA. Justice is a major arcana tarot card, which in many representations is Athene or Maat, the Egyptian Goddess of justice. Justice reversed is a classic symbol of life out of balance. 16th C.

Justin cc' The English form of Latin Justinus "ofJUSTUS." It was not uncommon in the Roman Empire, and was borne by two Byzantine emperors as well as the second-century writer Justin Martyr. Late 12th C. Bearers: Justin Timberlake (b. 1981), the American singer. and actor. Justin FinchFinchley is a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Justina Y The Latin feminine form of JUSTIN. `there was a fourth-century saint of the name, who became the patron saint of Padua. 16th C. It:

Giustina, Slk: Justina, Fr: JUSTINE, Pol: Justyna, Cz: Justina, Hun: Juszina, Ru: Ustinya.

Justine y French form of JUSTINA. Late 19th C. Dim: Justie, Justy. Justine (1791) is one of the Marquis de Sade's best-known erotic novels. Another novel entitled Justine (1957) is the first of Laurence Durrell's Alexandria Quartet.

Justinian ' Anglicized form of the Latin cognomen Justinianus "belonging to Justinus" (see Justin). It is the name of a sixth-century Roman emperor, and three saints-including a sixth-century Welsh one, associated with St. David. Late 16th C.

Justitia 2 Anglicized form of L: iustitia "justice." 17th C.

Justus c~ Latin: iustus "just" and "fair." Justus was a common cognomen in Roman times, and occurs in the New Testament. Unsurprisingly, it is the name of a number of early saints. 13th C. Dut: Joost, Fr: Juste.

Juthwara Y An obscure West Country saint. The meaning is very uncertain; it is possibly cognate with W: iud(d) "lord" + gwdr "civilized." Some have suggested that it is a corruption of her Breton name: And Wryr-"And the Virgin." "This is unlikely, as wryr comes from the Latin virgo and is not Brythonic in origin, while And is a Norman-French name. More likely, this is how the name was interpreted in the Middle Ages and And Wryr derives from Juthwara, rather than the other way around.

Juturna Y Anglicized form of Iuturna, a nymph and sister of Turnus, King of the Rutulians in Roman legend. L: iuvo "to help," "to benefit," and "to support."

Juvenal e The English form of the Latin cognomen Iuvenalis, used specifically of the late first-century CE satirical poet, Decimus Junius Iuvenalis. L: iuvenalis "youthful." The name is also borne by five saints, and has therefore been most used by Catholics, particularly in Spain. 19th C.

Juventas 2 Roman Goddess of youth. L: iuventas "youth" and "time of youth." She is the equivalent of the Greek Goddess Hebe. NB Juventus is the name of the Italian football club.

Juventina Y Spanish name, the feminine of Juventino, the Spanish form of Latin Juveninus. St. Juveninus was a fourth-century saint supposedly executed by the Emperor Julian the Apostate in 363 CE. This is unlikely, as Julian passed an edict in 362 guaranteeing freedom of religion. Thus a hagiographer either made a mistake-or made the whole thing up. Juveninus itself means "of Juvenius"; Juvenius was name of a Roman gens < L: iuventus "youth"-or possibly from JUVENTAS. Var: Joventina, which can also mean "belonging to Jupiter" in Latin.

Jynx a ? Latin: iynx < Gr: iugx "wryneck"-a type of small bird. In ancient times, it was used in a spell to regain a wayward lover, and thus it also gained the meanings "spell" and "charm." When the word was first used in English-in the mid-seventeenth century-it was used for the bird, but it was being used to mean "spell" and "charm" too by the end of that century. In America, the variant jinx arose in the early twentieth century to mean someone or something which brings bad luck-created artificially by Witchcraft. The verb "to jinx" inevitably developed shortly after. 20th C. Dim: Jinxie.

Jyoti Y Indian name. Sanskrit: jyotis "light," "fire," and "dawn."

Kachina Y The name of a type of spirit found among the Pueblo people, believed to be found in all aspects of Nature, from trees to stones, animals to clouds. Among the Hopi, it is believed that after the dead have traveled to the West, they become Kachinas and return as clouds. These ancestors are summoned to bring rain in the "Kachina Dance," in which the Kachinas are represented as masked figures. Kachina dolls are another representation of these spirits. The etymology is uncertain, though it may possibly be related to the Hopi word for "mask."

Kader Y Turkish name-kader "fate" and "destiny." It was possibly first used to act as a feminine form of KADIR.

Kadir c~ Turkish name-kadir "worth," "value," and "rant"; it is used in astronomy to mean "magnitude" in reference to the brightness of stars.

Kaede 2 e Japanese name-kaede "maple."

Kahedrin c~ The brother of Iseult and friend of Tristan, Kahedrin had a rather tragic love affair with Brangaine- each night when they went to bed, Kahedrin plunged into a deep, enchanted sleep. The name is probably derived from Kae Hir-Kay "the Long" (i.e. Tall)-who features in some versions of the tale of Tristan and Iseult. Var: Kahedin, Kahenis, Kehidius.

Kahina 2 The name given to a legendary seventh-century Berber seer and war-leader, who resisted the expansion of the Arabs into Northwest Africa. Her real name is disputed, but she was dubbed al-Kahinat "the (female) seer" by the Arabs.

Kai c Older form of CAI, found in medieval Arthurian Romances such as the tale of Culhwch and Olwen. Kai's widespread use in Scandinavia, Germany, and Holland may be down to its use originally as a short-form of names such as KAJETAN and NICHOLAS, etc. It is also a Hawaiian boy's name meaning "sea." Var: Kae (hist).

Kaila Y The oldest example of Kaila is as a Yiddish name, deriving from the Hebrew Kelila, itself formed from a Hebrew adjective meaning

"entire," "total," "perfect," and "whole." It is also found as KAYLA from the late nineteenth century among Polish immigrants to America.

Meanwhile, in Hawaii, Kaila can be understood as a combination of ka (the definite pronoun "the") + ila "dark birthmark" and "dark"; it is also used to refer to the changing colors of the skin of an octopus. Much of Kaila's use outside Hawaii and the Jewish community is simply as a variant of Kayla.

Kailash e The name of a sacred mountain in Tibet, considered by Hindus to be the home of Shiva. The Kailash temple at Ellora in Maharashtra was carved out of a basalt cliff in the eighth century. San: kelasa "crystal."

Kaimana cc Hawaiian name-kai "sea" + mana "power," specifically "supernatural power" or "divinely powerful." Kaimana also means "diamond."

Kainalu a' Hawaiian name-kai "sea" + nalu "wave," "surf," "wavy", or "full of waves."

Kainoa cc Hawaiian name-ka "the" + inoa "name," "namesake," and "name chant."

Kaito c3' Japanese name-kai "sea" + to "man" and "person."

Kajetan c~ German form of GAETANO. It is sometimes used in Germany by Roman Catholics in honor of a Cardinal of the name, who fought against Martin Luther. Var: Cajetan.

Kalakua Y Hawaiian name. It was borne by a Hawaiian queen consort-Kalakua Kaheimehamele (c. 1778-1842). Haw: kala "proclamation" and "announcer" + akua "God," "Goddess," "spirit," "ghost," and "image." The word kala is also used to mean "counter-sorcery" or "counter-sorcerer."

Kalden c' Tibetan name-skal ldan "auspicious," "fortunate," "happy," and "blessed" < skal "fortune," "fate," and "destiny" + ldan "possessing." Var: Kaldan.

Kale c' Y A highly nutritious vegetable also called borecole, it is a member of the cabbage family. It is known that flat-leaved varieties were being

grown in Greece by the fourth century BCE, and it was one of the most common vegetables grown and eaten in medieval Europe. The surname derives from the villages of East and West Keal. ON: kigl "ridge of hills"-although there is an outside chance that there is a connection with CATHAL, or that it derives from OF: cale "caul" (a headdress)-see Cale. 18th C.

Kalegras G~ The name of Tristan's father and son in the Icelandic saga Tristram ok Isodd. Canelengres is the surname of Tristan's father in German versions, deriving from Cannel, the city ruled by Tristan's father in Gottfried von Strassbourg's version. The second part of the name is Fr: engrais "fertilizer," from the verb engraisser meaning "to make fat"-in this context, therefore, "enricher" would be a better translation.

Kalei cc' Hawaiian name-ka "the" + lei "garland" and "wreath." 20th C.

Kalena Y Hawaiian name-ka "the" + lena "yellow."

Kali Y Kali is manifestation of the Goddess Durga and consort of Shiva. San: kali "black one"-kali still means "black" in Romani. Originally conceived of as a Goddess of death and destruction, she is more often now associated with time and regarded as a Mother Goddess. In the West, Kali is sometimes used as a variant of KAYLEE, rather than an adoption of the name of the Goddess.

Kalidas C' Sanskrit: KALI + dasa "servant"-"servant of Kali." Kalidasa, who lived sometime between the fourth and sixth centuries CE, is regarded as the greatest poet and playwright of Sanskrit literature.

Kalman e Hungarian name. Probably Turk: kalinti "remnant," "remainder," "ruins," and "remains." Borne by a twelfth-century Hungarian king.

Kalpana y Indian name. San: kalpand "fiction," "idea," and "imagination."

Kamaka a Hawaiian name-ka "the" + maka "eye," "beloved," and "bud."

Kamal c~ Arabic name-kamal "perfection"; Indian name-San: kamala "lotus."

Kamala 2 Sanskrit: kamala "lotus." Kamala is another name for the Goddess Lakshmi. It is also the name of a small Indian tree with medicinal properties.

Kamalei Y Hawaiian name-kama "child" + lei "garland" and "wreath."

Kamama ? Cherokee: kamama "butterfly."

Kamana Y Sanskrit: kamana "wish"; it is combined with mana- "mind," "spirit," and "thought" in the name of the Hindu Goddess Manakamana. Hawaiian: ka "the" + mana "supernatural power," "divine power," and "possessed of mana power."

Kamber A son of Brutus the Trojan and brother of King Locrinus. W: Cymru "Wales"-a parallel of Locrinus's name, which derives from W: LLOEGR "England." 20th C.

Kamil c~ Arabic name-kamil "perfect." Var: Kamel. It is also the Polish and Czech form of CAMILLUS.

Kamila ? Kamila is both the feminine form of the Arabic KAMIL and Polish and Czech form of CAMILLA; the latter is sometimes shortened to KIM.

Kanani cc Hawaiian name-ka "the" + nani "beauty," "glory," and "splendor."

Kanda 2 'Mai name-kanda "beloved" and "sweetheart."

Kande ? A Hausa name given to a girl born after two or more sons.

Kane c~ British surname with a number of origins. Some derive from the Middle Welsh female name Keina (see Keyne). Others derive from CATHAN, and a few may come from the town of Caen in Normandy. Kane is also the name of one of the four most important Hawaiian Gods. Regarded as the ancestor of mankind, he is a God of procreation and the sea and is associated with the sun, the sky, and the dawn. 18th C. Use in

recent times may have been influenced by Jeffrey Archer's novel Kane and Abel (1979).

Kanika Y Indian name. San: kanika "grain" and "atom." The closely related kanika means "a very small particle" and "little (one)."

Kanti Y Sanskrit: kanti "beauty," "radiance," "charm," and "splendor"-used of the full moon. It is another name for both Lakshmi and Durga.

Kanya Y Sanskrit: kanya "girl" and "maiden"-the Indian name for Virgo. Kanya is also a Thai girl's name-kanya "young woman," a word which comes from Sanskrit.

Kaori y Japanese name-kaori "fragrance."

Kara Y Generally in the ESW, Kara is simply a variant spelling of CARA. However, in Twi, kara means "soul," and in traditional West African belief is used specifically of the soul of a deceased person in "heaven" who has been reincarnated. It is closely related to OKARA. The kara is considered part of the soul or spirit of a living person, but still distinct, capable of providing protection and offering guidance, but also capable of neglect or even spurning. When a person prospers, they may offer thanks and thank-offerings to their kara. The kara departs when a person is dying.

Karakia Y Maori: karakia "prayer."

Karama 2 Swahili: karama "worth," "value," "respect," "honor," "esteem," and "gracious gift."

Karen Y c~ Karen is generally considered just the Danish form of KATHERINE. However, Karen was in use in the ESW from at least the eighteenth century as a variant spelling of Keren, the short form of KERENHAPPUCH. The first examples of the Danish Karen appear in the nineteenth century, when many bearers clearly possess Danish or German connections. As for the rest, it is difficult to say whether the Danish name was intended, or whether it was still just the home-grown variant of Keren. It featured as the name of a German character in the Oscar-nominated Wonder of Women (1929) when Karen was still relatively rare, and this

may have been responsible for making the name better known. Another early and influential bearer was the American actress Karen Morley (1909-2003)-whose birth name was Mildred Linton. The Danish Baroness Karen Blixen (1885-1962), author of *Out of Africa* (1937), is largely responsible for Karen's widespread reputation now as a Danish name. Var: Karin, Karena, KARON, Caryn, CARON. Karen is also an Armenian male name-a short form of Karekin, an old name of unknown meaning.

Karl c~ Karl has been the usual Germanic form of CHARLES since early medieval times. OG: carl "a man." It first became familiar in the ESW in the nineteenth century from immigrants from Germany and Scandinavia. Var: CARL.

Karma a' 2 Sanskrit: karma "act," "action," or "performance." It is applied to the concept that every action has a consequence in our past, present, and future lives. It is a philosophy very much akin to one held by many Pagans, such as the law of threefold return. Var: Kharma (which also means "joy" in Greek). Mid-20th C.

Karon 2 c Variant of KAREN-but also Gr: karon "caraway." 19th C. Var: Karo.

Kashiye ' Y Shona: kashiye "lion cub," "bear cub," and "wolf cub."

Kasumi ? Japanese name-kasumi "haze" and "mist."

Kate 2 A short form of KATHERINE. It appears in Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* as the pet-form of Katherina, the "shrew" of the title. Another famous literary Kate is Miss Kate Hardcastle in Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773). 19th C. Var: Cate (mod). Bearers: Catherine "Kate" Greenaway (1846-1901), the English illustrator; Kate Forsyth (b. 1966), the Australian fantasy novelist; Catherine "Kate" Bush (b. 1958), the British singer; Catherine "Kate" Middleton (b. 1982), wife of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge; Kate West (b. 1957), the British Wiccan writer, author of the *Real Witches* series on Wicca and Witchcraft.

Kathara 2 Greek: katharos "pure." Late 20th C.

Katharsis 2 Greek: katharsis "purification."

Katherine Y The fourth-century St. Katherine of Alexandra was-and is-one of the most beloved of all saints, hence the enormous popularity of her name since the Middle Ages.'The irony is she probably never existed at all. The earliest reference to her is in the seventh century, and it was not until the tenth that her cult began to spread from Egypt. Traditionally derived from Gr: katharos "pure" (how convenient for a saint who exemplifies purity-according to the doctrine of the Church!). However, the earlier form of the name-before the medieval hagiographers got hold of it-was Aikaterine, preserved to this day in the Greek and Russian forms. This suggests a derivation from aikia "torture"-also appropriate given the manner of her martyrdom. However, since she is supposed to be from Alexandria, her name might not have been Greek at all, but a Hellenized Egyptian name-perhaps one containing the name of the Goddess HEQET. Another option is presented by an even older form of the name-Ekaterine. This bears a startling resemblance to Hekate, the original Greek form of HECATE.'The -rive ending would be problematic with this theory, however, unless the name arose as a misreading of *Hekatodorina, the feminine of *Hecatodorinus-"belonging to HECATODORUS." In a period when all documents were copied over and over again by hand, misreadings of names were commonplace, especially when complex and unfamiliar names were involved. Ekaterine could also be from *Hekaterine "(female) belonging to Hekateros." Hekateros (L: Hecaterus) was a minor Greek God of the hekateris-a type of country dance. He also happened to have five daughters called the Hekaterides-the nymphs of the hekateris. The singular of Hekaterides is Hekateris, but Hekaterine

is a perfectly plausible alternative. Hecateros itself derives from Gr: hekatero "to kick the rump with one heel after the other" < hekateros "each of two." Of course, it is possible that there was never a person called Katherine at all, and that the whole myth of the saint arose from the name of the site of St. Katherine's Monastery in the Sinai, with the monastery coming first, and the saint emerging after-just like so many other eponymous founders of places across the ancient world. Katherine bears a striking resemblance to Kasserine in Tunisia, the Europeanized form of Arabic: Al-Qasrayn "the two castles." It is not implausible that the

monastery started out with a similar Arabic name, which was later Hellenized; -ss- and -tt- were often interchanged in Greek. Var: Catharine, Catherine, Cathrine, Cathryn, Kathryn, Kathrine; Katharine arose out of a desire to emphasize the derivation from *katharos*. Dim: CAT, Cate, Cath, CATHY, Kat, KATE, Kath, Kathy, KATIE, KATY, KAY, KIT, KITTY. It Ga: CAITLIN, Caitrin, Caitriona, Catraoine, Sp: Catalina, Catherina, Rom: Catalina, Ecaterina; Catinca (dim), It, Port, Sp: Catarina, Cat, It, Port: Caterina, Dut, Scand: Catharina, Port: Catia (dim), W: Catrin; Cadi (dim), Sc Ga: CATRIONA, Bul, Ru, Ukr: Ekaterina, Fin: Kaarina, Katriina; Katja (dim), Haw: Kakalina, Hun: Katalin, Est, Fin: Katariina, Basque, Breton: Katarin, Ger, Serb, Scand: Katarina, Slk: Katarina, Cz: Katarina; Katuska (dim), Cz, Slk: Katka (dim), Ger: Katarine, Katharina, Katherina, Kathrin, Pol: Katarzyna, Ger, Hun, Ru: Katinka (dim), Dut: Katrien, Katrijn; Kaatje (dim), Dut, Ger, Scand: Katrina, Katrine, Alb: Ketrina, Ru: Yekaterina; KATYA, Katushka (dim). Bearers: three queens of King Henry VIII- Catherine of Aragon (1485-1436), Catherine Howard (c. 1521-42) and Catherine Parr (c. 1512-48); Catherine the Great of Russia (1729-96); Katharine Hepburn (1907-2003), the American actress; Katherine Hewitt (d. 1612), one of the Pendle Witches executed for Witchcraft in Lancashire, England, in 1612; Catherine Campbell (d. 1697), one of the Paisley Witches, executed for Witchcraft in Scotland in 1697; Catherine Repond (1662-1731), executed for Witchcraft in Switzerland in 1731; Catherine Morland, heroine of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* (1817); Catherine "Cathy" Earnshaw of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* (1847); Kathryn Janeway, captain of the USS *Voyager* in the American science-fiction series *Star Trek: Voyager* (1995-2001).

Kathleen Y Anglicized form CAITLIN. 19th C. Its use was promoted by Frederick Crouch's song "Kathleen Mavourneen" (1837). Var: Cathleen. Dim: Kath, Kathy. Bearers: Kathleen Kennedy (1920-48), the sister of JFK and wife of the British aristocrat William Cavendish, Marquess of Harlington; Kathleen Kenyon (1906-78), the British archaeologist.

Katie y Short form of KATHERINE, used independently since the nineteenth century. Var: Katy. The *What Katy Did* series by Susan Coolidge was first published in the 1870s. Katie Bell is a Witch in the *Harry Potter* series.

Katsi 2 Shona: katsi "cat"-it derives from CAT.

Katsu c~ Japanese name-katsu "victory." Related is Katsuo, combining katsu with o "manly" and "brave."

Katsumi Y c~ Japanese name with various meanings depending on the kanji. The first element is usually katsu "overcome," or "victory"; the second might be mi "the Serpent"-one of the horary signs-or mi "beauty," "lovely," or "noble."

Katya Y Russian pet-form of KATHERINE. Used in the ESW since the twentieth century. Var: Katia, Catia, Catya.

Kaumudi Y Indian name. San: kaumudi "moonlight." Kaumudi is another name for the festival of Sharad Purnima (see Purnima).

Kawan 'Y Malay: kawan "friend" and "companion."

Kawena 2 Hawaiian name-ka "the" + wena "glow," a word used specifically of the glow from a fire, sunset, or sunrise.

Kay c~ Y In Arthurian legends, Sir Kay is the step-brother of King Arthur. His name also appears as KAI and CAI, especially in the Welsh versions. This Kay derives from the Roman praenomen GAIUS. The surname Kay has more than one source. One is the Welsh Cai. Another, ON: ka "jackdaw." A further is ME: kaie "key," used metonymically for a key-maker. Next, there is "kay" < Dan: kei-a dialectic word meaning "left," used of someone who is left-handed. And Last OF: kay "quay"-used of someone who lived by or near a quay. Meanwhile, in Scotland and the Isle of Man, some Kays were originally MacKays-Ga: MacAedha "son of AODH." In the nineteenth century, the love of all things Arthurian meant Kay was often used with Sir Kay in mind; another inspiration was no doubt the character of Kay in Hans Christian Anderssons The Snow Queen (1845), who is called Kaj, a variant of the Scandinavian Kai, in the original Danish. As a girl's name, Kay is usually said to have started out as a pet-form of KATHERINE. However, it is clear that many girls were given the surname Kay as a middle name in the nineteenth century, and this can be considered the source of the female name, just as much the male. Var:

Kaye, Cay (mod). Bearers: Katharine "Kay" Francis (1905- 68), the American actress; Kay Kendall (1926-59), the British actress; Kay Thompson (1908-98), author of the Eloise stories (1955-59); Kay Harker, hero of John Masefield's *The Midnight Folk* (1927) and *The Box of Delights* (1935).

Kaya Y In the West, generally a variant of KAY. The word kaya has various meanings in other languages. Some of these are: Malay: "rich" and "affluent"; Turkish: "rock" and "precipice"-kaya mezari means "rock tomb" and kaya resmi "cave painting"; Swahili: "village."

Kayla Y Kayla is the name of a language spoken by some members of the Agaw people of Ethiopia, and came also to be one of the names of the historic Jewish community there. Its meaning is obscure. Native speakers have said it means "one who has not crossed," possibly referring to the fact that Jews had to avoid doing certain activities on the Shabbat. Another theory is that it developed from a word meaning "artisans" in the Semitic language also spoken in the region. It seems unlikely that this obscure word has any real bearing on the take up of Kayla as a given name in the mid-twentieth century; almost certainly, it developed partly as a shortened form of MICHAELA and partly as a variant of KAY and KELLY, influenced by other names ending in -la. The first examples of Kayla-at the end of the nineteenth century are clearly variants of KAILA. Bearers: Kayla Brady Johnson, a character in the American soap opera *Days of Our Lives* (1965-).

Kaylee Y Kaylee began life as a combination of the names KAY and LEE, its development influenced by KELLY and KAYLA. In 1985, Marillion's hit "Kayleigh" made Kayleigh well known in Britain. The band's lead singer has said the choice of name was inspired by a woman he knew who was called Kay Lee. Some, however, like to derive it from the surname Kayley. This derives from two sources: Cailly in France and Caoladh-an Old Irish byname < caol "slender"-though the usual Anglicization of this is Caley. But while there are some examples of Kayley in use as a middle name in the nineteenth century, it was Kaylee which first came into general use in America, and Kayleigh in Britain. Some also like to treat Kaylee as an Anglicized form of Ceilidh, the highland dance; it is pronounced the

same-but it's a coincidence. Var: Caileigh, Caley, Caylee, Cayleigh, Cayley, Kailey, Kaley, Kaylie, Kayley.

Kaylin Y A name which almost certainly arose as a variant of other names beginning with Kay- and ending in -lin such as KAYLEE, KAYLA, and CAITLIN. It has since been treated as an English form of the Irish CAOILFHIONN. Mid-20th C. Var: Kaelyn, Kaelynn, Kaylynn.

Kealoha c Hawaiian name-ke "the" + aloha "love," "mercy," "compassion," etc. Early 20th C. Bearers: Pua Kele Kealoha (1902-89), an American swimmer.

Kean c~ Anglicized form of the Irish surname O Cathain "descendant of CATHAN," though sometimes now treated as an Anglicized form of CIAN.17th C. Var: Keane.

Keanu c~ The use of Keanu from the late twentieth century is almost entirely down to the American actor Keanu Reeves (b. 1964), whose father is part-Hawaiian. It is often said that his name is Hawaiian for "cool breeze over the mountains"; this is a fanciful interpretation of its actual Hawaiian meaning-Haw: ke "the" + anu "cool," "coolness," and "cold."

Keaton c~ English surname, from Kelton in Rutland, England, which takes its name from a river.'This seems to be a hybrid-CC: *kayto- "wood" + OE: ea "river." 19th C.

Kebius c~ The name of a Cornish saint. Kebius was allegedly a fourth-century bishop, ordained by Hilary of Poitiers before returning to Cornwall. He may well be one and the same with the Welsh Cybi (a Cornishman by birth according to the legend), who gave his name to Caer Gybi, the Welsh name for Holyhead. Probably CC: *kob(o)- "victory."

Keeley Y Irish surname, an Anglicization of O Caollaidhe. Jr Ga: caol "thin," "lean," "lank," and "small." 18th C. Its wider take-up in the twentieth century is due to the popularity of similar names such as KELLY, KAYLEE, and KAYLA-and to all intents and purposes it is really just a variant too. Var: Keely, KEELIE. Keighley, filched from the name of the

rather grim Yorkshire town, is also used as a variant, despite being correctly pronounced "KEETH-lee." OE: Cyhha (meaning unknown) + leah.

Keelie Y A name for the Kestrel in Edinburgh. It may possibly derive from the same source as Kestrel-OF: cresse relle. Its use as a given name in most cases is probably as a variant of KEELEY. 20th C.

Keen c~ Old English: cene "brave." In the eleventh century, English "keen" meant "wise," "learned," "brave," "daring," "powerful," "strong," and "insolent"; by the thirteenth century, it was used of weapons to mean "sharp," and by the fifteenth century, it was also meaning "incisive," etc. It had acquired its usual modern meaning of "eager" and "ardent" by the fourteenth century. The surname Keen derives in part from this adjective and partly as a short form of names such as KENWARD. 18th C.

Kehaulani ? Hawaiian name-kehau "dew" and "dewdrop" + lanī "heaven" and "sky."

Keikilani y Hawaiian name-keiki "child" + lanī "heaven" and "sky."

Keiko Y Japanese name. The second element is ko "child"; the first depends on the kanji used: "congratulation," "felicitaton"; "respect," "honor," and "esteem"; or "grace," "mercy," "blessing," and "kindness." Bearers: Keiko O'Brien, a character in the American science-fiction series Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1993-99).

Keir G~ Scottish surname, a variant of Kerr-itself the Scottish form of Carr, a name common across the North of England. ON: kjarr "wet ground." 18th C. Bearers: (James) Keir Hardie (1865-1915), a major figure in the history of the British Labour Party. Var: Kier.

Keira Y Modern Anglicization of the Irish CIARA, heavily influenced by KIERAN, KEIR, and KYRA. Var: Kiera. Bearers: Keira Knightley (b. 1985), the British actress.

Keith e Scottish surname, deriving from Keith in Banffshire. This may be Sc Ga: gaoth "wind." The family tradition has it, however, that the Keiths were originally a Germanic tribe-the Catti-who came to Scotland in the eleventh

century to help the native population defend themselves against the Danes. The name of this tribe may be cognate with Old Norse: *katla* "battle," or even Old English: *coed* "wood." 17th C. Bearers: Keith Moon (1946-78) of The Who; Keith Richards (b. 1943) of The Rolling Stones.

Kekoa c Hawaiian name-*ke* "the" + *koa* "courage" and " " courageous.

Keladeine 2 Epithet of Artemis. Gr: *keladeinos* "sounding noisy."

Kelda 2 Old Norse: *kelda* "a spring," "well," and "fountain." 20th C.

Kelebek Y Turkish name-*kelebek* "butterfly."

Keleteira 2 Greek: *keleteira* "enchantress."

Kelethme Y Greek: *kelethmos* "enchantment," "rapture," "fascination," and "charm." Var: *Kelethma*.

Kelly ? e Scottish, Irish, and Cornish surname. The Irish is an Anglicized form of O'Ceallaigh "descendant of CEALLACH." The Scottish derives from Kelly in Angus and Kellie in Fife-Sc Gaelic: *coille* "wooded area" and "grove.." The Cornish is from *celli* "grove." 18th C-becoming predominantly a girl's name in the twentieth. This was largely in homage to Grace Kelly (1929-82). Var: Kellie.

Kelpie Y In Scottish and Irish folklore, the kelpie is a supernatural shape-shifting water horse believed to haunt rivers and lakes. It is said to lure the unwary to watery deaths. Possibly Sc Gaelic: *ca pa* "bullock," "heifer," or "colt." 20th C.

Kelsey ? cc English surname, from North and South Kelsey in Lincolnshire. OE: *Ceol-ceol* "ship" + *eg* "island." First found as a middle name for girls in the nineteenth century. Use since the latter twentieth has probably been influenced by KELLY and LINDSEY. Bearers: Kelsey Grammer (b. 1955), the American actor.

Keltie Y cc A name for the kittiwake used around Aberdeen in Scotland. It is also a Scottish surname, a variant of Kelty, deriving from the village of

that name in Fife. Sc Ga: coillte "wooded area" and "grove." 19th C.

Kelvin c' The first instances of Kelvin as a given name date to the eighteenth century, probably as variants of CALVIN or bestowals of the rare surname. OE: Ceolwine-ceo/ "ship" + wine "friend." In the late nineteenth century, it began to be given in honor of William Thomson, 1st Lord Kelvin (1824-1907), the British physicist and engineer famous for the formation of the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics. He was made a baron in 1892 and took his name from the river near Glasgow. Sc Ga: caol "slender" and "narrow"+ abhainn "river."

Kern c' Y Romani: kem "sun"-a variant of CAM. See also Khem.

Kemp c~ An obsolete word for a strong and brave warrior, sharing the same etymology as CAMPION. It gave rise to a surname. 17th C. Var: Kempe.

Ken cc Short form of names beginning with Ken-, principally KENNETH. Ken is also a Japanese name-ken "healthy" and "sound."

Kendall Y c~ English surname deriving from the picturesque Lakeland town of Kendal in Cumbria. Recorded in the Domesday Book as Cherchebi "village with a church." By about 1095, it had become Kirkabikendala-i.e. "village with a church in the valley of the River KENT"; by the fifteenth century this had been simplified to Kendale. 16th C. Since the mid-twentieth century, it has been increasingly used for girls. Var: Kendal. Dim: KEN.

Kendra 2 Kendra is an extremely rare surname, mostly found in Yorkshire. It may have developed from the Scottish surname MacAndrew, but there is a strong chance it derived from the Old English girl's name Cynethryth (Cynepry\$), which was Latinized as Quendrida. This may also be behind the surname Kindred (the word "kindred" is used in Heathenism to denote a group), also found as a given name from the nineteenth century. OE: cyne "royal" + kryd "strength." It is possible that Cynethryth survived the Norman Conquest long enough to give rise to the surname, which was first used as a given name for boys in the early nineteenth century. The resemblance of this name to the girl's name Kendra, however, though

felicitous, is probably coincidental. It is likely that Kendra's use in the twentieth century represents a blending of the Ken- of KENNETH with the -dra of names such as SANDRA and ALEXANDRA. Since then, it has had meanings attached to it, some more fanciful than others. Some call it the feminine of KENDRICK; others say it is an adoption of the Sanskrit kendra "centre." It is also said to mean "cedar" in Curonian, an extremely rare Baltic language-which rather goes to show it is possible to find a meaning in some language for almost anything. The name has featured quite a lot in the last ten years in film and television, such as a character in the American television series Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1997-2003) and another in the Harry Potter series.

Kenelm a' Old English: cene "brave" + helm "helmet." It has been around since at least the ninth century, and there is an Anglo-Saxon saint of the name. Bearers: Sir Kenelm Digby (1603-65), the English statesman and philosopher.

Kenina ? A feminine form of KENNETH used in Scotland. 19th C. Var: Kenia.

Kennedy 2 This famous Scottish and Irish surname derives from the Gaelic O Cinneide meaning "descendant of Ceanneidigh." Sadly, the meaning of Ceanneidigh-almost certainly a byname rather than a given name-is not particularly attractive; a combination of ceann "head" and eitigh "fierce," "angry," "stormy," "ugly," and "dismal." 17th C. Since the late twentieth century, it has seen more use as a girl's name than a boy's. Bearers: Lisa Kennedy Montgomery (b. 1972), the American satirist, who goes by simply "Kennedy." A female character called Kennedy featured in the American television drama Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1997-2003).

Kennet 2 The name of a tributary river of the River 'Thames. It was formerly known as the Cunnit and its name evolved from the Roman settlement of Cunetio (now called Mildenhall). Cunetio probably derives from CC: *kuno "high." West Kennet is an important neolithic barrow in Wiltshire, England. Var: Kennett.

Kenneth c~ Y The Anglicized form of two Gaelic names: Cinaed-meaning "born of fire"-and CAINNEACH. It has been used in Scotland since the

Middle Ages; three kings bore the name between 843 and 1005 CE. It spread to the rest of the ESW in the nineteenth century. Now also used for girls. Dim: KEN, KENNY. Bearers: Kenneth Grahame (1859-1932), author of *The Wind in the Willows* (1908); Kenneth Williams (1926-88), the English actor; Kenneth Branagh (b. 1960), the Northern Irish actor.

Kennick c3' Romani: ken nick "house-dweller" < ken "house."

Kenny c~ Mostly a pet-form of KENNETH, but in Ireland it is sometimes used to Anglicize the Irish Gaelic name CAINNEACH. 20th C. Bearers: Kenny Everett (1944-95), the British comedian (real name Maurice Cole).

Kenrick cc Old English: Cynric-cyne "royal" + ric. Kenrick survived the Middle Ages, being reinforced from the seventeenth century by the use of the surname derived from it. Var: Kendrick.

Kent c~ The county of Kent derives its name from the Celtic tribe the Cantiaci, also known as the Cantii. "This is probably from CC: *kantom "hundred" or perhaps *kan(s)to "white." The country gave its name to a surname which in turn became a given name. Most earls and dukes of Kent have been members of the British royal family. Joan, Countess of Kent in her own right (1328-85), known as "the Fair Maid of Kent," was the granddaughter of King Edward I and wife of the Black Prince. Kent is also the name of a river in Cumbria. This is probably the river recorded as Coantia in the Ravenna Cosmography (c.700 CE); its etymology is probably the same as KENNET.

Kentigern cc' The patron saint of Glasgow; he is also known as Mungo. CC: *kuno- "high" or *kwon- "hound" + *tigerno- "ruler." Sc Ga: Ceantighernn. W: Cynderyn. Late 19th C.

Kentigerna Y Feminine form of KENTIGERN. The name of an early eighth-century saint, supposedly a widowed female hermit, who is commemorated at a church on Inchebroida Island, Loch Lomond.

Kenton ' English surname, derived from one of the places called Kenton in England-OE: Cena (a personal name probably deriving from cene "brave" or cyne "royal") + tun. 18th C.

Kenward c3' Old English: cyne "royal" or cene "brave" + weard "guard." It survived the Norman Conquest, producing surnames such as Kenward and Kennard which reinforced the original name from the seventeenth century. Var: Kennard, Kinard, Kynard (hist). Bearers: Kenward Elmslie (b. 1929), the American writer.

Keo c3' Y Khmer name-kaev "glass" and "crystal."

Keola c3' Hawaiian name-ke "the" + ola "life" and "health."

Kerenhappuch Y Hebrew: "horn of stibium"-i.e. powdered black antimony. This has been used since ancient times to make kohl for blackening the eyelids and eyebrows. It was a valuable commodity and therefore a "horn" of it (one of the uses of horns in ancient times was as containers) was highly prized. Early 17th C. Dim: Keren. A character called Keren Daniel featured in Winston Graham's Poldark novels (1945-2002).

Kerensa 2 Cornish: kerensa "love." 20th C. Var: Karensa, Karenza, Carensa. Bearers: Carensa Lewis (b. 1963), a British archaeologist and television presenter.

Kernel ey Old English: cyrnel "seed" and "pip," diminutive form of corn "seed" and "grain." Late 19th C.

Kernow ' Cornish: Kernow "Cornwall" and "a Cornishman." It derives from the name of the tribe who inhabited Cornwall in the Celtic period, known to the Romans as the Cornovii. CC: *karno "horn" and "hoof"-referring to Cornwall's shape, the same root as CERNUNNOS. 20th C. Fem: Kernewes.

Kerrian c' ? Obscure Cornish saint with dubious origins. The name may be Cornish: ker "dear," though it is perhaps more likely to be a variant of KIERAN, and that the saint is one and the same with St. Kieran and St. PIRAN-they all share the same feast day of March 5. King Athelstan is known to have been a relic collector, and it is possible he acquired a bit of St. Kerian of Brittany. Athelstan may then have given the relic to Exeter, where St. Kerrian's only church is found. 20th C. As a girl's name it is treated as KERRY + ANN. Var: Keran.

Kerry Y c~ Kerry is one of Ireland's most famous counties. Its name is an Anglicization of its Irish name Ciarraighe meaning "the people of CIAR," named after their legendary founder, Ciar, the son of Fergus mac Roich. The county gave its name to a surname, which was sometimes confused in the past with Cary. When first used as a given name, it is likely it was the surname being adopted, though by the twentieth century, the county may have been in the minds of many who have used it. The name was exclusively male in the nineteenth century, but in the course of the twentieth century it became principally a girl's name. Var: CERI.

Kestrel Y a' The name of a type of hawk. OF: cresserelle and quercerelle "kestrel." The kestrel prefers to hunt in the open and is a familiar sight hovering over British motorway verges. Local names include hoverhawk, windhover, and wind fanner. 19th C.

Ketiwa c3' Y Mesquakie-Sauk: ketiwa "eagle."

Keturah Y Meaning "fragrance" or "incense" in Hebrew, Keturah was the name of Abraham's second wife. 17th C.

Keverne c? Another shadowy sixth-century Celtic saint. That he was supposed to be a friend of St. Kieran is about all that can be said of him—though they may be one and the same; one of the days said to be his feast day is March 5, the same as Kieran's. The name may possibly be connected to KEVRIN.

Kevin The English form of CAOIMHIN. There is not much evidence of use prior to the nineteenth century, when it first was used in Ireland and Scotland, spreading elsewhere at the end of the century. Bearers: Kevin Rudd (b. 1957), the Australian Prime Minister; Kevin Costner (b. 1955), the American actor; Kevin Darling, a character in the British comedy series *Blackadder Goes Fourth* (1989).

Kevrin c Cornish: kevrin "secret" and "mystery." It maybe the source of KEVERNE. 20th C.

Kew 2 Obscure Cornish female saint, said to have been Welsh by birth. There is a Gaulish Goddess called Caiva known from two inscriptions

found in Germany. She is believed to be a Mother Goddess and in the past was invoked in the plural. It might possibly be derived from CC: *koimo-"dear"-from which CAOIMHE ultimately derives. Kew in London, famous for its botanical gardens, has an entirely different origin. OF: kai "quay" + OE: hoh "hill-spur." Var: Cywa (hist).

Keyne Y A very shadowy saint of c. 500 CE, one of the alleged daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog. Keyne is the English form of Welsh Cain "beautiful." She is sometimes known as St. Cain Wryr ("the Virgin"), Cain Breit (said to be "bright," but suspiciously similar to various forms of Bridget), and CEINWEN. Both Kentchurch and Keynsham take their names from her and possibly the parish of Kenwyn near Truro. St. Keyne's Well in Cornwall was the subject of a poem by Robert Southey (1774-1843), and she is supposed to have turned all the snakes around Keynsham to stone by her prayers. All of this points quite strongly to Keyne originally being a Pagan Goddess. Var: Keina (hist).

Keynfor e y Cornish: keynfor "ocean"-its literal meaning is "beautiful sea."

Keziah Y Biblical name. Heb: "cassia." 16th C. Var: Kezia. Dim: Kizzie. Keziah Mason is a Witch in H.P. Lovecraft's short story "The Dreams in the Witch House" (1932).

Khanya Y Zulu: khanya "shine!" < khanya "to shine."

Khem c~ A primordial Egyptian God, whose name is synonymous with that of Egypt itself-Kemet, which was later turned into Khemia by the Greeks (see Alchemy). Egyptian: km "black"-a reference to the fertile soil along the banks of the Nile in contrast to the desert lands beyond. Khem is also known as Min, and he is the God of procreation and fertility; the name Khem refers specifically to the black fertile earth of the Nile, and is thus highly symbolic of fertility and fruitfulness. Var: KEM, Kham.

Khnum e An Ancient Egyptian God of the Nile with the head of a bull. He was said to make babies out of the clay from the Nile before putting them into their mothers' wombs. Egyptian: Xnm "to form," "to shape," "to mold," "to establish," and "to construct." Var: Khnemu, Knum, and Chnum.

Khshathra c? Y The name of an Amesha Spenta, one of the six "Divine Sparks" of Ahura Mazda in Zoroastrianism. Avestan: khshathra "dominion". Var: Kshathra.

Khubilai c~ Mongolian name-the modern transliteration of Kublai, a name borne by Kublai Khan (1215-94), the grandson and successor of Genghis Khan. Another variant is Kubla, which features in Coleridge's "Kubla Khan" (1816).

Khulai cc A Romani name, in use since at least the nineteenth century. In Romani, it means "gentleman," though it passed into English slang in the seventeenth century as "cully" with the meaning "dupe" and "simpleton"-a reference to someone easily cheated.

Kiefer c German surname-kufe "tub," thus "tub-maker." In Modern German, kiefer means "pine-tree" and "jaw." 19th C. Bearers: Kiefer Sutherland (b. 1966), the Canadian actor.

Kieran a' English form of CIARAN. St. Kieran is one of Ireland's most popular saints. 19th C. Var: Kieron, Keiran (mod).

Kijate ? a' Algonquin: k~ate "sunny."

Kiki Y Kiki began life in Europe as a pet name, usually of names beginning with a "k." The name gradually became better known during the course of the twentieth century through various individuals, such as the American socialite Alice "Kiki" Preston (1898-1946). But in Greek, kiki does mean "castor berry," "castor oil," and "castor oil plant"-a plant known and used for its medicinal and cosmetic properties since the time of the Ancient Egyptians.

Kiku 2 Japanese name-kiku "chrysanthemum."

Killarney Y The name of the Irish town in Kerry which also gives its name to the beautiful and atmospheric Lakes of Killarney, among them Lough Leane (Loch Lein)-"the lake of learning." Jr Ga: Cill Airne "church of sloes"-the fruit of the blackthorn tree, used in Britain to make gin. 19th C.

Killashandra Y The central character in Anne McCaffery's *The Crystal Singer* (1982). Late 20th C.

Killigrew c~ Y An old name for the chough (a type of bird) in Cornwall. It may be related to W: *cilio* "to fly" + *creu* "to caw." The surname Killigrew is also Cornish, but its origins are obscure. It seems to come from a medieval village of the name, which probably derived from Cornish: *kelli* "grove" + *crow* "hut." 18th C.

Kilmeny 2 The name of an "uncanny maid" who spent seven years in Elfland. She was the subject of a poem by James Hogg (1770-1935). It also featured in Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Kilmeny of the Orchard* (1910). The name seems to be an adoption of the name of a village on the island of Islay in Scotland, Sc Ga: *Cill a' Mhanaich* "monastery" < *cill* "church" + *manach* "monk" or *Cill Mheinidh* < *cill* + *meanidh* "owl." Folk-etymology, however, derives the second option from *cill mhEithne* "my EITHNE's church." The Gaelic word *cill* derives from the Latin *cella*, which was used in Pagan times for the inner room of a temple, where the cult statue was housed. Later, it meant simply "room" and "cell"-as in "hermit's cell." 20th C.

Kim 2 c~ Kim is usually treated as a short form of KIMBERLEY, but it has been in use as a male name since at least the eighteenth century, when it represented an adoption of the surname Kim-a variant of Kemm. This is from the Old English girl's name *Kymme* < KINBOROUGH. Rudyard Kipling's novel *Kim* (1900-01) made the name better known; Kim in *Kim* is also a boy and the name is short for Kimball. This was also originally a surname, derived from the Old English male name *Cynebeald*-*cyne* "royal" + *beald* "bold." As a girl's name, Kim is twentieth-century, and its use probably stems from its appearance in the 1927 musical *Showboat*-and subsequent film versions. Actresses Kim Hunter (1922-2002)-born Janet Cole-and Kim Novak (b. 1933) also promoted it. Kim is also a Vietnamese girl's name meaning "metal" and "gold" and is a Korean surname-in the East, metal is considered one of the five elements.

Kimberley, Kimberly Y G~ Kimberley began life as a surname deriving from one of two places called Kimberley in England. Kimberley, Nottinghamshire is OE: *Cynemaer* (*cyne* "royal" + *mcere* "famous,"

"great," or "excellent") + leah. Kimberley in Norfolk is OE: KINBOROUGH + leah. It is this Kimberley that gave its name to the earldom from which the diamond-mining town of Kimberley in South Africa took its name-its prominence during the Boer War led to Kimberley being taken up in general use as a first name originally for boys. Kimberly is the usual spelling in America because of two USS warships of the name during World War I and II. They were named after American Admiral Lewis Kimberly (1830-1902). 19th C.

Kimimila y Lakota: kimimila "butterfly." Var: Kimimela.

Kimiya 2 Persian name. Ar: al-kimik "alchemy." 20th C.

Kimora Y A name of uncertain origin, first used in the mid-twentieth century, and made better known in recent years by the American model Kimora Lee Simmons (b. 1975). Most likely, it arose in the ESW as a simple blend of KIM with the -ora ending of names such as Cora, Nora, Dora, Flora, and Lenora, all in fairly widespread use in the mid-twentieth century.

Kinborough ? Old English: Cyneburh-cyne "royal" + burh "fortress." The name has remained in continual use since at least the seventh century, though it is now all but obsolete. The seventh-century saint of the name is usually called Kyneburga or Kyneburg. Var: Kinburga, Kinbarra, Kinbora, Kenborowe, Kenbora, Kimbrah, Kimborough, Kimberly, Kimberry, Kymbra, Kynborow.

Kinew a' Y Algonquin: kinew "eagle." Closely related is the Ojibwa Kiniw.

King c~ Old English: cyning "king." Most bearers of the surname King did not acquire the name because they descend from a king, but because their ancestor either behaved in a "kingly" manner-whether in a good or bad sense is difficult after several hundred years to say-or played a king in pageants. In some instances, they may have been a "King of Misrule"-someone chosen to preside over the festivities of the twelve days of Christmas-a custom which went back to the Pagan Saturnalia of Roman times. 17th C.

Kinga Y Hungarian name, which developed from the German KUNIGUNDE. 20th C.

Kingfisher c~ Y A glimpse of the elusive but stunningly beautiful kingfisher is one of the joys of the British countryside, and a rare treat for most. Its name is self-explanatory and apt. The kingfisher features highly in myth and folklore. The Ancient Greeks believed that the dried corpse of a kingfisher hung up in the house warded off lightning, while in the twelfth century, they were used as the medieval equivalent of moth-balls-if Gerald of Wales is to be believed. It has long been a symbol of peace and prosperity. See also Alcyon and Halcyon. 20th C.

Kingsley c~ 2 English surname, from one of the places in England of the name. OE: cyning "king" + leah. 18th C.

Kingston cc English surname, from one of the places of the name in England. OE: cyning "king" + tun. 18th C.

Kinley Y c~ Manx and English surname. The Manx is a contraction of Mac Cinfailadh "son of Cinfailadh"; Cinfailadh was a byname < ceann "head" + fail "wolf." Under Anglo-Saxon law, the cry "wolf's head!" was used in the pursuit of an outlaw-the implication being that the man would be hunted down like a wolf; in time, the expression "wolf'shead" came to mean "outlaw." The origin of the English Kinley is less certain; it may be from Kenley in Surrey-OE: Cene (see Kenton) + leak. 18th C; increasingly used for girls since the late twentieth. Var: Kinlay, McKinley.

Kinsey c~ Y English surname, deriving from OE: Cynesige < cyne "royal" + sige "victory," a name which lasted into the Middle Ages long enough to give rise to the surname. 18th C. Var: Kynsey.

Kinsley y c~ English surname, from Kinsley in West Yorkshire. OE: Cyne "royal"-in use here as a personal name combined with leak. 17th C; increasingly used for girls since the late twentieth.

Kintyre c~ 2 The name of the famous Scottish peninsula, made famous by Paul McCartney's song "Mull of Kintyre" (1977). Sc Ga: Cinn Tìre "headland." Late 20th C.

Kira 2 In origin a variant of Cyra (see Cyrus), Kiras use in recent years has probably been much influenced by appearances in television and film and its similarity to KEIRA. Kira is the name of the heroine in the 1980 film Xanadu, while Major Kira was a feisty officer in the American sciencefiction series Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1993-99). 19th C. Var: Kyra.

Kiran cc Indian name. San: kirana "ray of light" and "dust."

Kiraz Y Turkish name-kiraz "cherry."

Kirk cj Scottish surname. ON: kirkja "a church"-denoting someone who lived near a church. In Scotland "kirk" is still an everyday word for "church." Its ultimate etymology is uncertain. It is possibly connected to L: circus "circle," though this has been rejected by linguists in favor of a derivation from Gr: kuriakon "(house) of the lord." 17th C. Var: Kirke. Bearers: Kirk Boott (1791-1837), the American industrialist; Kirk Douglas (b. 1916), the American actor.

Kirsten Y Old Norwegian and Danish form of CHRISTINA. In English it is usually pronounced "KUR-stun," though in Scandinavia, it is "SHEER-stan." 20th C. Sw: Kerstin.

Kisaiya? A Romani name, probably deriving from KEZIAH. Alternatively, it may be related to Romani: kissi "purse" < San: koza "bud," "cask," "box," "pocket," and "treasure."

Kishar Y The name of a Mesopotamian Earth Goddess, sister and wife of the sky God Anshar. Sumerian: ki "earth" + sar "all" and "totally." Late 20th C.

Kishore cj Indian name. San: kizora "colt," "adolescent." Fem: Kishori.

Kit c~ 2 The usual short form in past centuries of CHRISTOPHER, Kit is also used now sometimes as a short form of KATHERINE and KITTY. Used as an independent boy's name since the eighteenth century, and girl's since the nineteenth. Bearers: Kit Berry, a British Pagan novelist, author of

the Stonewylde series (2005-); Christopher "Kit" Rodriguez, a major character in Diane Duane's Young Wizards series (1983-90).

Kite c' Y The name of the large and stately bird of prey, which was once so common it gave its name to the toy, but is now an endangered species. OE: cyta "kite." 20th C.

Kitini y Alabama: kitini "horned owl" and "night hawk."

Kitten Y Anglo-Norman: kitoun < OF: cheton "little cat" < L: catta-an informal word for "cat." Used as a term of affection-and a name-since the nineteenth century.

Kittiwake ? e The name of a type of small and attractive seagull with pure-white heads and grey wings, whose name derives from its distinctive, high-pitched call of kitti-kittiwake, which they only make during the courtship and nesting season. They spend most of the year at sea, only coming to land to nest. In the past it was believed that the souls of dead children went into kittiwakes. Late 20th C.

Kitty Y A pet-form of KATHERINE, used from medieval times. It features most famously in the old nursery rhyme "Lucy Locket." Another well known Kitty appears in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice (1813) as one of Elizabeth Bennett's sisters. Like many names popular in the medieval and early modern periods, Kitty has given its name to various species of wildlife, such as a kitty-wren (wren), kittycoot (moorhen), kitty-needy (sandpiper), and kitty-witch (kittiwake). Used independently since at least the eighteenth century.

Kiya Y Quechua: kiya "moon."

Mahan cc' 'Thai name-k/a han "brave" and "bold" < kla "brave" + han "to be bold." Var: Klaharn.

Klethra Y Greek: klethra "alder." Var: Klethre.

Klin Y Thai name-k/in "aroma' and "fragrance."

Knight c~ The original meaning of knight in Saxon times was "boy" and "youth"; by the tenth century it was used for a boy or young man who worked as a servant, acquiring the sense of "military servant" only at the end of the eleventh century. At this date it also became a feudal rank, used of a man who had the use of land from a baron in return for military service as a mounted and well-armed soldier-or someone who could provide such a soldier. In the Middle Ages it became strongly associated with notions of chivalry and courtly love. It is these uses which feature most prominently in medieval literature, and which is the image conjured up in most people's minds when the word is used today. The surname is a direct adoption of the word. 17th C.

Knox c~ Scottish surname, from Knock in Renfrewshire. Sc Ga: cnoc "hillock" or "hump." First generally bestowed in honor of John Knox (c. 1510-72), the Scottish clergyman who founded Presbyterianism. 19th C. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt named a son Knox in 2008.

Knud An Old Norse name, still used in Scandinavia. ON: knzitr "knot." It was in use in Britain in the Middle Ages, giving rise to surnames such as Knott. Var: CANUTE.

Kofi c~ Ghanaian name, signifying "born on a Friday" in Twi. Bearers: Kofi Annan (b. 1938), the former SecretaryGeneral of the United Nations.

Koki a' Japanese name-ko "prosper," "magnificent," or "light" + ki "firm" and "resolute"; ki "tree."

Koray c~ Turkish name-kor "glowing coal" or "ember" and "fiery red" + ay "moon."

Kore ? The name of the Maiden aspect of Persephone. 19th C. Gr: kore "maiden." Var: Kora, CORA.

Korrigan c~ 2 Cornish: korrigan "elf" Korrigans are also found in Breton folklore, where they are female and said to have been Druidesses opposed to the coming of Christianity. There they have the power to make men fall in love with them-but kill them when they do. They haunt fountains and wells. Late 20th C. Var: Corrigan.

Kosoleth y Cornish: kosoleth "tranquility" and "stillness."

Kreszenz Y The German form of Crescentia (see Crescence). It is believed to be a lucky name in Germany, which bestows good health upon the bearer. Dim: Zenzi.

Kriemhilde 2 German name. OG: grima "mash" and "helmet" or GRIMA + hilt "battle." Var: Kriemhild.

Krishna c~ A name familiar to most Westerners because of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, better known to most as the Hare Krishna movement. Krishna is regarded in Hinduism as an avatar of the God Vishnu, though in other traditions, he is regarded as the Supreme Being. San: krsna "black." 20th C.

Kul a' Y Klallam: kid "gold."

Kumari 2 Indian name. San: kumari "girl" and "maiden." It is the name of the Goddess Durga as a child. In Nepal, the Kumari is a young girl who is selected as an incarnation of the Durga until she begins to menstruate-when the Goddess leaves her.

Kumiko 2 Japanese name, depending on the kanji used; it can mean "eternal child" or "beautiful child."

Kunigunde ? Old German name-kuoni "brave" + gund "strife." The French form Cunegonde features as Candide's love interest in Voltaire's Candide (1759). 19th C.

Kurt German short-form of CONRAD. 19th C. Var: Curt. Bearers Kurt Hahn (1886-1974), the educationalist and founder of Outward Bound; Kurt Weill (1900-50), composer of the Threepenny Opera; Kurt Russell (b. 1951), the American actor; Kurt Cobain (1967-94), the American musician.

Kvasir c? Kvasir was the wisest of the Norse Gods, but was murdered by the dwarf brothers Fjalar and Galar. His blood was mixed with honey and fermented, which turned it into the mead of poetry. The etymology is unknown. Var: Kvaesir.

Kwabena 9 Ghanaian name, signifying "born on a Tuesday" in Twi.

Kwadwo c? Ghanaian name, signifying "born on a Monday" in Twi.

Kwaku c? Ghanaian name, signifying "born on a Wednesday" in Twi.

Kwame (' Ghanaian name, signifying "born on a Saturday" in Twi.

Kwanzaa Y e The name of the American week-long festival held annually since 1966 when people of African descent remember and celebrate their history, heritage, and culture. Swahili: kwanza "first" and "beginning". Its use derives from the expression matunda ya kwanza-"fruits of the beginning." 20th C. Var: Kwanza.

Kwasi c? Ghanaian name, signifying "born on a Sunday" in Twi.

Kyla 2 Often used as a feminine form of KYLE, Kyla owes much of its use in the twentieth century to the fashion for two-syllable girls' names containing the consonants "k" and "l." Late 19th C.

Kyle c? English surname. Its origins aren't certain. It is usually derived from the district of Kyle in Ayrshire-Sc Ga: Coila.'This area was said to be named after Coel Hen though it is more likely to be connected with Gaelic: caol "a strait," which features in other toponyms, such as the Kyle of Lochash. Another option is Sc Ga: coille "a wood." 18th C.

Kyler a' English surname, a variant of Killer. ME: killere "the killer." This was probably a nickname for a butcherpossibly a hangman-but it is not known for certain. Examples of it as a given name are found in the nineteenth century, mostly as a middle name. Its use in the latter twentieth century, however, is almost certainly the result of a blending of KYLE and TYLER.

Kylie Y A name which originated in Australia. It is in fact true that kylie is a name for a boomerang in Western Australia-the word is also spelled koilee and kiley. However, whether the first Kylie was named after the boomerang, or whether it arose simply as a variant of Kelly pronounced with an Ozzie twang is impossible to say. It has certainly been associated

with a kylie for some time now. It is also sometimes treated as a feminine form of KYLE. 20th C. Bearers: Kylie Minogue (b. 1968), the Australian singer and actress. Var: Kiley, Kylee, Kyleigh.

Kyneswide 2 The name of a seventh-century English saint, one of the sisters of St. Kyneburga (see Kinborough). OE: cyne "royal" + swiJi "strong." It did not survive long after the Norman Conquest.

Kynsa Y Cornish: kynsa "first."

Kyprina 2 Greek: kuprinos-` of copper" and "made from the flower of the cypress." Var: Cyprina-L: cyprina was the name of a type of carp, perhaps the goldfish, while cyprinum was a type of perfume made from cypress flowers.

Kypris - Epithet of Aphrodite. Gr: Kupris "the Cyprian"-a reference to her birth on the island of Cyprus. Var: Cypris.

Laban c~ Biblical name. Heb: laban "white." 16th C. Var: Labhan.

Laburnum Y Laburnum is first recorded by Pliny the Elder. It was applied by Linnaeus to the plant we know as a laburnum today in the eighteenth century. The laburnum is much valued for its pendulous yellow flowers in the late spring and early summer which give it the poetic name "golden chain tree." Unfortunately, it is also deadly poisonous, a feature exploited more than once in literature, most notably in Daphne du Maurier's *My Cousin Rachel* (1951). 19th C.

Labyrinth c' Y Greek: laburinthos "labyrinth," used originally of a large building of interconnecting halls and passages of bewildering complexity, designed to get those who ventured within completely lost. It refers specifically to a mythical labyrinth on Crete, said to have been home to the minotaur. In Modern English usage, "labyrinth" is used of a type of maze with a single path leading to the centre and out again. Such labyrinths are found from Antiquity across the world, and it is believed that they may have served as traps for malevolent spirits or for ritual dancing. In medieval times, they were used devotionally, providing a symbolic pilgrimage, and as such are today used by Pagans and Christians alike. Late 20th C.

Lachesis Y The name of one of the three Fates. Lachesis spins life's thread and decides its length. Her name means "she who allots" < lagkhano "to obtain by lot."

Lachina Y In Scotland, Lachina is a feminine form of LACHLAN, in use from the late nineteenth century. Elsewhere, particularly in America, its use is largely a combination of the prefix La- with CHINA, and dates to the late twentieth century.

Lachlan c~ Scots Gaelic: loch "lake" or "fjord" + lann "land" or "enclosure"-essentially "fjord-land," referring to Scandinavia. It was used to mean "a Scandinavian" and was adopted as a personal name at an early date, giving rise to surnames such as Lachlan and MacLachlan. Associated with Clan MacLean and Clan Mackintosh since medieval times. Var: Lachlann, Lochlann. Dim: Lachie, Lachy, Lauchie, Lochie.

Lachtna c~ Old Irish name-lachtna "milk-white" or "grey." The diminutive form Lachtnan also exists, which gave rise to the surname O'Loughlin.

Lacinia Y Epithet of Hera.'There was a temple built to Hera Lacinia on a headland in Calabria, Italy, called Promunturium Lacinium, Today it is known as Capo dell Colonne-on account of the one remaining column. It probably derives from, or is cognate with, L: lacinia "hem" and "edge of a garment"-a reference, perhaps, to the lie of the land. 19th C.

Lacy Y cc English surname, from Lassy in Calvados, Normandy. First given to boys in the seventeenth century. It occurs as a girl's name from the nineteenth century, with some of its use no doubt influenced by its similarity to Lucy, and the adjective "lacy," with all its modern associations of femininity and delicacy.The adjective derives from the noun "lace," which originally meant "net," "noose," and "snare" < L: laqueo "to plait" and "to entangle." Var: Lacey, Lacie, Laci, Lace. A woman called Mary Lacy admitted to Witchcraft during the Salem Witch trials of 1692; as a result of her confession, she was actually allowed to go free, although a woman she had implicated was hanged, and her own mother died in prison.

Ladin ci Romani name recorded in the nineteenth century. Its origins are very uncertain, but both LADO and ALADIN are plausible sources.

Ladislav G~ Ladislav and Ladislaus are Latinized forms of the Croatian and Czech name Ladislav-volod "to rule" or LADO + slav "glory."The Russian version Vladislav and Pol: Wiadyslaw point to the former, but it is always possible that both options are true and what were once two names have, over time, become regarded as one. Hun: LASZLO. It, Sp: Ladislao.

Lado ? A Slavic deity associated with joy and lovesince at least the sixteenth century also known as Lada. Generally considered to have been a Goddess, although the original gender is not clear. A credible option is that there were two deities; Lado, a God, and Lada, a Goddess. In the sixteenth century, Lado was identified with LEDA, although this was based purely on the similarity of the names and it is unlikely that the two are related. The etymology is in fact very cloudy; it may be from the Slavic: colada "young girl." Songs to Lado, sung during the Summer Solstice, were banned by the fifteenth-century Statute of Krakow, but the name also features in Baltic

wedding songs, hinting at Lado's association with love and marriage. And in Russia and the Ukraine, brides and bridegrooms are still sometimes called lado and lada, though the formal terms are colada and mladozenya.

Ladon c~ In Greek mythology, the name of the dragon that guarded the tree in the Garden of the Hesperides upon which the golden apples grew. Probably derived from LAWTAN.

Ladonna ? A twentieth-century American blend of LAVERNE or LAVINIA with MADONNA, or an elaboration of DONNA. Early 20th C. Var: LaDonna.

Lady 2 The origins of the English "lady" lie in OE: hlaf "loaf" and "bread" + *dige "kneader." From an early date it came to mean "a woman"-specifically one with authority over a household and servants-and even before the Norman Conquest it had come to be used of a woman who ruled over subjects, synonymous with "queen." Likewise, its use for the Christian Virgin Mary dates to Saxon times-and although records do not survive far enough back, there is no reason to suppose that it, or its proto-type, was not also applied to Goddesses in pre-Christian times. In modern Paganism, "Lady" or "the Lady" is used synonymously with "the Goddess." 19th C.

Laeg e Old Irish name-loeg "calf." Laeg was Cu Chulainn's friend, killed in battle with a spear meant for Cu Chulainn. Var: Loeg.

Lafant cc Y Welsh: lafant "lavender."

Lafayette e y French surname, deriving from the words la hetraie "plantation of beech-trees." First used in America for boys in the late eighteenth century in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834), a hero of the American War of Independence.

Lafiya 2 Hausa: lafiya "health," "well-being," and "prosperity."

Lahar c~ The Sumerian God of cattle. Probably Akkadian: laharu "elder."

Laidech c~ Irish name which appears in old genealogies as a byname. 01: laoidh "poem" and "lay." Var: Laoidheach.

Laini 2 Swahili: laini "soft," "gentle," and "fine." Var: Leini.

Laka 2 e Laka is a name borne by more than one divine figure in Hawaiian myth and folklore. Principally, it is the name of a legendary hero, claimed as the ancestor of the kings of Tahiti and Hawaii, but Laka is also a Goddess of the forests and a guardian of woodland. Haw: laka "gentle" and "tame."

Lake e 2 Middle English: lac "lake" < L: lacus "lake." Water was held particularly sacred by the Celts, who considered it a means of communication with the Otherworld; numerous myths and legends allude to it, from the legend of the Lady of the Lake in Arthurian Romance to the tale of the fairy-wife and mother of the Meddygon Myddfai in Welsh myth. This is leaving aside all the mythical beings so closely associated with lakes, pools, and springs, from the lovely nymphs of classical mythology to sinister folkloric figures such as Jenny Greenteeth, who drown unwary children. Lake-from OE: lac-was also a medieval word meaning "sacrifice" and "gift." Another obsolete meaning is "play," "fun," and "glee" deriving from ON: leikr "play." The surname Lake arose as a byname for someone who lived by a lake or a stream. 17th C.

Lakshman c~ In the Indian epic, the Ramayana, Lakshman is the name of Rama's devoted brother. San: laksman "spot"; but the significance is "bearing auspicious marks," possibly a reference to the scars left by smallpox-considered lucky because it was lucky to survive smallpox, especially if contracted in childhood. Var: Laxman.

Lakshmi 2 One of the most significant Goddesses of the Hindu pantheon, Lakshmi is Goddess of wealth, prosperity, good fortune, generosity, wisdom, and light. She is also a fertility Goddess, and regarded as a Goddess of beauty and grace. She is the consort of Vishnu and is often depicted standing on a lotus, holding a lotus. The story of her birth is strikingly similar to that of Aphrodite; she is said to have been born from the foam of the ocean. San: laksma "sign" both a "good sign" (with "good fortune" and "prosperity" understood) and a "bad sign" of impending misfortune. In time it acquired other meanings, through association with the Goddess, such as "splendor," "glory," "beauty," and "loveliness." Var: Laxmi.

Lala Y Lala was first used in the ESW in the nineteenth century, almost certainly as variant of names such as Leila, Layla, Lalla, Lila, Lola, Lula, and Lyla, which were all in use at the same time. It may well have simply arisen at first as a nickname, from a child's attempts to pronounce any number of names. It was unlikely at the time to be an adoption of the Islamic Lala, which derives from LALEH, though this may well be the inspiration now, as well as the Lala in use in a number of Slavic lands, which may have been taken up through close contact in past centuries, or be a direct adoption of lala-the word for "tulip" in a number of Slavic languages. Lala has a number of meanings in other languages, including "red" in Romani, "red," "ruby," and "fiery" in Hindi, and "old" in several African languages, such as Doe and Manda of Tanzania. In Swahili and Zulu, it means "sleep" and "rest"-but it can also mean "to have sex." It is now most strongly associated with a character on the British children's television series Teletubbies (1997-2001).

Lalage Y A name seemingly invented by the Roman poet Horace from Gr: lalageo "to babble," "to chirp," and "to chirrup"-used of babies, birds, and grasshoppers. It has since been given to a genus of Asian and Australasian birds, such as the pied triller. 19th C. Dim: Lally, Lallie.

Laleh Y Persian name-la/eh "tulip."

Lalita Y Sanskrit: lalita "lovely," "charming," and "gentle." The name of a gopi of Krishna. The gopis-literally "cowherd girls"-feature prominently in the worship of Krishna and his consort Radha.

Lalla Y Arabic form of LALEH. It featured in the romantic poem Lalla Roukh (1817) by Thomas Moore, about a Mughal princess called Lalla Roukh (meaning "tulip-face" in Persian) who is sent to marry a prince but falls in love with a poet along the way-in the end it turns out that the poet and the prince are one and the same. 19th C. Var: LALA.

Lamar c French surname-la mare "the pond." Used in America since the nineteenth century in honor of contemporary figures of the name, such as the two Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamars (1797-1834) and (1825-93), both politicians, the latter a Secretary of the Interior, etc. Var: Lamarr, Lemar.

Lambert cc Old German: Landebert-landa "land" + berht. It was introduced by the Normans and was popular in the Middle Ages, largely on account of St. Lambert, to whom the cathedral in Liege, Belgium, is dedicated. Its use after the sixteenth century was reinforced by the adoption of the surname. Bearers: Lambert Simnel (c. 1477-c. 1525), a pretender to the English crown in 1487, claiming to be "Prince Edward"-usually thought to mean the Earl of Warwick, who was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time, but sometimes equated with Edward, Duke of York, one of the famous "Princes in the Tower." Lambert was actually crowned in Dublin as King Edward VI-but ended up turning the spit in the kitchens of King Henry VII.

Lamia 2 A beautiful Libyan queen in Greek mythology, daughter or granddaughter of Poseidon-who became a child-eating monster. In ancient times her name was popularly derived from Gr: laimos "throat" and "gullet," but it probably comes from the rare lamas "chasm" and "abyss," which may be related to L: lemures "ghosts."The details of the myth vary, but the tale more or less runs thus: Zeus began an affair with the queen, which Hera inevitably found out about. Her punishment of Lamia was particularly nasty, either she killed Lamia's children, or forced Lamia to eat them herself. Either way, Lamia was driven mad by it all and ate children for the rest of her days. To ease her grief, Zeus gave her the ability to remove her own eyes-and the gift of prophecy. A notorious fourth-century BCE courtesan was also called Lamia, and afterwards she and the mythological Lamia became mixed, resulting in the later incarnation of Lamia as a creature who seduced men only to devour them. By Roman times, lamia had come to mean "Witch" and "vampire" and these meanings have colored the treatment of the figure ever since. Lamia still survives in Greek folktales as a Baba-Yaga like creature, a flesh-eating monster with magical powers. Usually the hero of the tale has to trick her into giving him some knowledge or item crucial to his quest. Keats's "Lamia" (1819) has a much more sympathetic and enlightened portrayal of her, and no doubt it was because of his work that Lamia was taken up as a given name in the nineteenth century. There is also an identical but unrelated Arabic name, from lamma "shining" and "glossy." Var: Lamya.

Lammas a' Y Old English: hlafm&sse < hlaf "loaf" and "bread" and m&sse "mass." This is the name the Christians gave to the Pagan festival celebrated on the cross-quarter day between the Summer Solstice and Autumnal Equinox, i.e. August 1. Vestiges of Pagan celebration on this day survive across Europe. In modern Ireland, it is still called La Lunasa; Catholic priests parade out to bless the fields, and there are bonfires and dancing. Its Old Irish name was Lughnasadh or Lughnasa-the name re-adopted by many Pagans for the festival today. According to Irish myth, it was instituted by Lugh as the funeral games for his foster-mother Tailte, who had died from exhaustion after preparing Ireland for agriculture. 20th C.

Lamont c~ Scottish surname, deriving from the same source as LAYAMON. 17th C.

Lamorak c' A Knight of the Round Table in some Arthurian Romances, son of King Pellinore and brother of Per cival. In some versions he is the lover of Morgause. The meaning is unknown and is probably a coinage, perhaps based on Fr: l'amour "love." It is almost certainly the source of the Romani name Lamerok.

Lamorna Y ' Lamorna Cove in Cornwall is best known for its association with the Newlyn School of Art. One of the principal proponents was Samuel John Birch (1869-1955) who is known as "Lamorna" Birch. Lamorna is celebrated in the Cornish folk-song "Way Down to Lamorna" and the poem "Lamorna Cove" (1929) by W.H. Davies. The cove is also famed for a mermaid, whose singing was said to be an omen of an imminent shipwreck. The Cornish name for Lamorna is Nansmornow meaning "Mornow Valley," though the La- of the English is suggestive that the place may have been known as Lan Mornow in the past-Ian being the Cornish equivalent of W: Ilan "area around a church." It is found in particular around very old churches and frequently includes the name of an obscure saint. Mornow is not noted as the name of a saint, and whether it was once borne by a saint or the stream is unknown-the latter seems more likely. The first element seems to be the Cornish mor "sea," and the whole name might be a contracted form of Cornish: morlanow "high tide." Late 19th C.

Lampedo Y The name in Greek mythology of an Amazonian queen who ruled with her sister Marpesia. Gr: lampas "torch," "beacon," and "sun."

Lamun y "Thai name-lamun "fine" and "gentle."

Lan 2 a' Chinese name with a number of meanings. Mand: ldn "mist" or "mountain mist"; ldn "orchid"; ldn "swelling water"; ldn "blue."

Lana Y Lana is often said to have originated as a short form of ALANA. Although it does happen to be an anagram of Alan, Lana appears considerably earlier than Alana, making it unlikely to be the source. It is more likely that the name simply arose as a variant of other names in use in the late nineteenth century such as LENA, LINA, LONA, and LUNA-Lana simply completes the set. Lana Turner (1921-95)-born Julia Jean Turner-popularized the name from the late 1930s. In Russia, Lana is used as a short form of SVETLANA. In many languages, including Latin, Spanish, and Romanian lana means "wool" or "fleece," while in Hawaiian it means "floating." In Swahili, however, it means "curse"-and it is probably worth noting that backwards, Lana spells "anal." Bearers: Lana Lang, a character in the American television drama Smallville (2001-11).

Lance cc Old German: Lanzo-landa "land." However, the name has been associated with "lance" (the weapon) since the Middle Ages. The lance is very much linked to medieval knights and all the romance therein. Like the spear, it is strongly symbolic of virility, male sexuality, and masculine energy, as well as power and authority. Its reappearance from the sixteenth century is probably due to the surname derived from the medieval name.

Lancelot Probably the most famous of all the Knights of the Round Table in the Arthurian Romances, Lancelot was Arthur's best knight and best friend, as well as the lover of Queen Guinevere. His origins, however, are unclear. He may be related to the figure of Llŵch Llenllaewg-"Llŵch of the striking hand"-in Culhwch and Olwen. His name is simply a double diminutive of LANCE with the suffixes -el and -ot, which has been used as a real name since the Middle Ages. Var: Lancelin, Lancelyn (hist). W: Lawnsloot. Bearers: Lancelot "Capability" Brown (1716-83), the famous landscape gardener.

Lanceor cc An Irish knight in Malory's Morte d'Arthur. A variant of LANCE.

Land c? Y The use of Land as a given name has more historic precedence than some might think. The name LANCE derives from OG: landa "land," which was also used as an element in compound names, such as ROLAND. The surname Land is from OF: launde "glade." In more recent times, it is more likely to be used as a short form of LANDON. 18th C.

Landon c~ English surname, deriving from any one of the places called Langdon or Longdon in England. OE: lang "hill" + dun "hill." 18th C. Var: Landen, Landyn, Landin. Bearers: Landon Carter (1710-78), an American planter known for his account of life in eighteenth-century America-7he Diary of Colonel Landon Carter (1752).

Lane c~ 2 English surname. OE: lanu "lane." 17th C. In the twentieth century, it was increasingly used for girls, possibly starting out as a short or variant form of ELAINE. Var: Laine, Layne. Bearers: Lane Chandler (1899-1972), the American actor; Lane Brody (b. 1955), the stage name of singer-songwriter Lynn Voorlas.

Languoreth Y The name of the wife of Riderch I (fl. 580 CE), King of Alt Clut in the Strathclyde region. She features in a story about St. Mungo, when, accused of infidelity by Riderch, she appealed to the saint to help her. Riderch was demanding to see a ring which he claimed she'd given to her lover, even though it was he that had thrown it into the Clyde. St. Mungo duly caught a fish and cut it open, revealing the ring. Variations of this story go back to Ancient Greece-a good example of a hagiographer drawing on Pagan myths and legends and altering them to suit the "life" they were writing. CC: *landf "open land" + *gwariyf "duty."

Lani 2 Generally Lani's use, along with Lanie, Lainey, and Laney has been as a modern pet-form of ELAINE. It is, however, also the Hawaiian word for "sky" and "heaven," and it has been used with this in mind since the early twentieth century.

Lantern Y Lanterns have been symbols of light since Antiquity, best illustrated by the Chinese Festival of Lanterns. L: lanterna < Gr: lampter <

lampo "to shine." 20th C.

Lanuvina Y Epithet of Juno meaning "of Lanuvium"; Lanuvium was an ancient town in Latium. Proto-Latin: *lama "swamp." Juno Lanuvina is depicted wearing a goat's skin and shoes which are turned up at the toes, and carrying a shield and spear.

Lanval G~ The eponymous hero of one of the late twelfth-century narrative poems by Marie of France. Lanval is a knight at the court of King Arthur and the lover of a fairy woman. Unfortunately, he attracts the attentions of the queen, which he spurns. She has her revenge by accusing Lanval of shaming her-but his fairy lover comes to rescue him. As she leaves the castle on her horse, he jumps on behind her, and together they ride off into the sunset. Norman French: l'an val "the valiant man."

Laodice Y Greek: laos "people" + dike "justice." "The name of a number of mythological and historical women from Ancient Greece, particularly among the Seleucids. 19th C.

Laoise Y Modern use of the name imbedded in Portlaoise-Gaelic Port Laoighise "fort of Laois." Largely treated as an Irish form of LISA. County Laois was originally called Queen's County; prior to that it belonged to the territory of the Ui Laoighis who took their name from a legendary ancestor called Lughaid Laoighesach, Laoighesach being a byname probably deriving from Oí: loeg "calf." It is treated, however, as a variant of LUISEACH. Anglicized as Leasha.

Laomedia 2 One of the Nereids, Laomedia is a feminine form of LAOMEDON. She appears in Spenser's Faerie Queene, along with the other Nereids, where she is described as "like the christall sheene."

Laomedon c~ A Trojan king, brother of Ganymede and father of Priam. Gr: laos "people" + medon "ruler." 17th C.

Laphria Y Principally an epithet of Artemis, Laphria is also an epithet of Athene. As Laphria, Artemis was worshipped at Patras, where a festival-the Laphria-was held in her honor. Derived from Laphrius, the name of a very minor Greek figure, said to have instigated the worship of Artemis at

Calydon. In reality, he was probably invented to explain the epithet; Laphria is probably the name of a preGreek Goddess worshipped in the region, later identified with Artemis.

Lapwing Y e A type of black and white bird of the plover family. The name is very old, and not what it appears to be, deriving from OE: hleapewince < hleapan "to leap" + *winc "to totter" or "waver." Also known as a peewit and peesweep from its cry, and flopwing from the manner of its flight. A proverb of 1670 states, "the Lapwing cries most, farthest from her nest." This led to the bird gaining a reputation for treachery, because of this habit of leading a false trail away from its nest. Lapwing chicks were considered to develop quickly, able to run as soon as they were hatched, leading to another seventeenth-century expression, in which thoughtless people were compared to "lapwings with a shell upon the head."

Lar The Lares were tutelary Gods who watched over Roman households. All Romans had a shrine to them in their home. The etymology is unknown, but there may be a connection with L: larva "ghost" or "specter," or LARVANS.

Lara Y Lara is principally the short form of LARISSA, which featured in Boris Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago (1957). The 1965 film version and "Lara's Theme"-a major motif of its music, which became the hit song "Somewhere My Love" (1966)-made the name famous. Most of the name's use has been since the film. Lara was, however, first used in the ESW in the nineteenth century. This may have still been the Russian name-other Russian names were adopted in the same period, such as Sonia-but it could also represent the adoption of the name of a nymph in Roman mythology called Lara. She is also known as Larunda, and was worshipped in Rome under the names of Tacita and Muta. Her name is probably cognate with, or derived from, LAR.

Laran c~ The Etruscan God of war.

Larch Y The tree. Ger: lkrche < L: larix < Gr: larix "larch"-a word cognate with CC: *darik- "oak." The larch is native to the cool regions of Europe and Canada. It was introduced into Britain in the early modern period for its timber, which is valued for being waterproof and rot-resistant, and is

thus much used in boat building, cladding, or other situations where wood is exposed to a lot of moisture. In central Europe, larches and birch trees were often planted together on borders, because, as fast-growing trees, they mature quickly to protect slower-growing ones. Of course, one of its magical uses is protection. The tree is also fire-resistant, and so is used in talismans and the like as a charm against fire. It is used in herbal medicine in the treatment of colds and flu, as well as bronchitis, asthma, and eczema. Late 20th C.

Larcia Y Feminine form of Larcius, a Roman gens. The origin is unknown; it may be related to L: larix "larch" or LAR. 19th C.

Lareine Y Variant of LORRAINE, shaped to resemble Fr: la reine "the queen." Early 20th C. Var: Larain, Laraine.

Larissa 2 Russian name used in honor of the obscure fourth-century St. Larissa. She could easily be a Christianization of the Thessalian nymph of the name, who almost certainly arose to explain the name of more than one town in the ancient world called Larissa, in particular Larissa (modern Larisa) in Thessaly. If Greek in origin, it may be derived from Gr: larix "larch," laros "cormorant" or "gull," or laros "pleasant" and "sweet." 19th C. Dim: LARA. Bearers: Larissa "Lara" Antipova, a central character in Boris Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago* (1957).

Lark 2 a' The name of a bird. ME: laveroc < OE: laferce "treason-worker"-a name possibly acquired because of the lark's ability to feign injury and to limp away in order to lead people and other animals away from its nest. The lark is famous for its cheerful singing, which it often does in flight, hence its usual modern name: SKYLARK. The expression "to sing like a lark" dates to the seventeenth century and the bird and its song have always been a favorite subject with poets. Sadly, larks have not been terribly well repaid; they were a favorite food in times past or caged as songbirds. Because of a folk-belief that blind birds sang better, their eyes were often put out. The surname derives from the bird presumably bestowed on someone who sang a lot. 18th C.

Larkspur Y Gc The popular name for the delphinium, named for its flowers which resemble spurs-or dolphins, hence its botanical name deriving from

L: delphinus "dolphin." The Larkspur is particularly noted for its blue color, though it does come in a number of other colors, especially cultivated varieties. Sadly, it is now rare in the wild. Also known as lark's heel, larl's claw, and knight's spur. Ruled by Venus and Water, the Larkspur in magic is used to promote health-specifically of the eyes-and protection; it is also said to ward off ghosts. In herbal medicine, it has a number of uses, such as the treatment of nits, lice, asthma, and piles, but the plant is poisonous and an irritant. It should only be used by qualified herbalists. Larkspur can symbolize airiness, levity, and fickleness. 20th C.

Larry e Pet-form of LAWRENCE. In the past, it was mostly used in Ireland, but was taken up elsewhere in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Larry Hagman (b. 1931), the American actor; Laurence "Larry" Niven (b. 1938), the American science-fiction author. Larry Blaisdell, a character in the American television series Puffy the Vampire Slayer (1997-2003).

Lars c~ Now mostly considered the Scandinavian form of LAWRENCE, Lars is also the Latinized form of the ancient and unrelated Etruscan Larth. Lars Porsenna (fl. c. 500 BCE) was an Etruscan king, who supported the dethroned King Tarquinius Superbus in his attempts to regain his crown and to suppress the newly-born Roman Republic. The etymology is unknown; it is not even known for certain whether it was a name or a title. 19th C.

Larvans e Latin: larvans "enchanter" and "a dealer in magic" < larva "to enchant" and "to bewitch."

Lasair y Irish Gaelic name-lasair "flame." In Irish myth, it is the name of one aspect of a Triple Goddess-the others being Inghean Bhuidhe and Latiaran. They preside over the crops as they grow and ripen. The obscure St. Lasair-whose feast day is May 1-is almost certainly the Goddess turned into a Christian saint. She is also known as Crobh Dearg ("red claw") and is said to possess the Rose of Sweetness, which never dies, and the Comb of Magnificence, both gifts from Flann. Var: Lassar, LASAIRFHIONA.

Lasairfhiona Y Another name of the Goddess Lasair. Jr Ga: lasair "flame" + fion "wine." Anglicized as Lassarina. Var: Lassar Fhina, Lasairiona.

Laser ' ? Most use of Laser as a given name in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was as a spelling variation of Lazar, the Russian form of LAZARUS. Laser was also a plant enormously popular as a culinary and medicinal herb in Roman times-properly called laserpicium or silphium; the Latin laser referred specifically to the juice of this plant. Among its uses was as a natural contraceptive. Believed to have been a gift from Apollo, it was so popular with the Romans that they harvested it to extinction. "Laser" today is best known as a device that emits beams of light. The word started out as an acronym from "light amplification by the stimulated emission of radiation." Since the emergence of lasers in the early 1960s, the laser has become of enormous importance in many areas of modern life, from medicine to law enforcement, weaponry to entertainment. Var: Lasar, Lazer.

Laserian c' Anglicized form of Irish Gaelic Laisren-Ir Ga: lasair "flame" + dim. suffix -dn. Other variants are Laise and Malaise-a pet-form from the Gaelic Mo Laisse "my Laise." "This is the name of an alleged sixth-/seventh-century saint, who supposedly lived the life of a hermit on Holy Isle in the Firth of Clyde, which, in Gaelic is called Eilean MoLaise. His feast day is April 18-approaching Beltanewhich coupled with the meaning of his name, suggests a strong solar connection. Whether he really was just a Christian priest or missionary later canonized-or a Pagan deity is very difficult now to say. There are, however, a suspicious number of supposedly separate St. Laisrens, all fifth-/sixth century, which ought to indicate it was a common name except it is not known at all, save through these "saints."

Laski c~ Romani name deriving from LASZLO. Var: Lasho.

Liszl6 c? Hungarian form of LADISLAS. St. Ladislav was an eleventh-century Hungarian king. It occurs in the ESW-usually without the accents-from the early twentieth century. Dim: Laci.

Latasha Y Modern name based on NATASHA, created in the 1960s by substituting the initial Na- with the prefix La-. Var: LaTasha. Latisha also developed around the same time, though this probably represents a respelling of LETITIA, perhaps influenced by Latasha and other La-names. Var: Latesha, Lateesha.

Laterius c~ Epithet of Jupiter meaning "of Latium." In ancient times, it was believed that Latium derived its name from L: lateo "to lie hidden"-referring to a belief that the young Jupiter hid in Latium from his father. However, the likely true etymology is from the rather more prosaic latus "broad" and "wide." Var: Latiaris.

Lathar Gc A legendary figure in Irish mythology, from whom Larne in Ireland-Ir Ga: Latharna "Lathar's place" is said to derive its name. It is probably the case that Lathar was simply invented to give Larne a heroic forebear, and that it was not Lathar's place, but LATIARAN's.

Latiaran y One part of a Triple Goddess with her "sisters" Lasair and Inghean Bhuidhe. Although very little is known about her, one story does survive which states that each day she carried a flame to a forge, but on one fateful occasion it set her apron alight and she melted away. This has been interpreted as indicating that Latiaran is a type of sacrificial Goddess. Indeed, since it is suggested that she presides over Lughnasadh, there may be a connection with Tailte, whose death through exhaustion after preparing Ireland for the growing of crops was said to be commemorated by her foster-son Lugh at the first Lughnasadh. There are some intriguing possibilities regarding the origin of the name Latiaran. It could be that she is one and the same with the Goddess Litovis, to whom numerous inscriptions have been found in France. Some derive this from CC: "lito" "feast" and in a roundabout sort of way stretch it to make Litovis mean "she who feeds." However, it is more likely that it shares the same root as the Irish luthair "place" from PIE: *)latus "broad" and "flat," and that Latiaran was originally an Earth Goddess. Indeed, if Litovis/Latiaran is from this source it would make her exactly cognate with the Hindu Earth and Mother Goddess Prithvi. It is also possible that in Ireland in later times a connection was made between Latiaran and 01: lath "furor," "ardor," and "heat," perhaps explaining how she acquired her associations with fire.

Latif cc Arabic name-lat f "nice," "gentle," "kind," "friendly," and "graceful." Var: Lateef.

Latifa 2 Feminine of LATIF. Bearers: Queen Latifa, the stage name of American singer and actress Dana Owens (b. 1970). Var: LATEEFA.

Latona Y Latin form of LETO. A related name is Latonia, an epithet borne by Leto's daughter Artemis, meaning "of Latona." Latonia is also used as a variant of LATONYA. 19th C.

Latonya Y Modern name, created by combining the prefix La- with Tonya- a variant of TANIA or short form of ANTONIA. It is one of the earliest of the La- creations, first appearing in the late 1940s. Var: Latonia (see Latona).

Latoya 2 Modern name, combining the prefix La- with TOYA. Var: LaToya, LaToya. Bearers: La Toya Jackson (b. 1956), the American singer.

Latria Y Greek: latreia "state of a hired laborer," "service," specifically "service to the Gods," thus "worship" < latreuo originally "to work for hire," but later "to serve the Gods with prayer and sacrifice." The word latria is used in the Roman Catholic Church to refer to the worship they consider due to their God alone. Used from the 1960s, though it is not entirely clear whether its use has been an adoption of the Catholic term or one of the La- coinages, and its resemblance to latreia purely coincidental. The date it came into use and variants such as La'Tria suggest the latter.

Latrina 2 Almost certainly considered by those who have used it as a combination of La- with Trina (see Catriona). In Latin, latrina < lava means "bath," "latrine," "toilet" < lava "to wash"; it was also used in Roman times to mean "brothel." The fact that Latrine is also attested as a genuine given name in the ESW is a very good example of the importance of checking the meaning of an uncommon name-at the very least in an English dictionary-before using it. 20th C.

Laud cc' Y Old French: laude "praise" < L: laudo "to praise." The word "laud" is now rare outside traditional hymns. The surname Laud is probably a variant of Lord "a lord." 17th C.

Lauda Y Imperative of L: laudo "to praise," thus carrying the meaning, "praise!" There are other similar names which were taken up by the Puritans, such as Tace and Ora. 17th C. Lauda is also the name of a type of medieval Italian vernacular sacred song, which derives from the same source.

Laudine Y The "Lady of the Fountain" in Chretien de Troyes's Yvain, the Knight of the Lion (1170s). Its etymology is uncertain. Ostensibly it appears to derive from L: laudo "to praise," but this may be superficial. In some versions of the tale, Laudine has no name and Owain-as he is usually known-marries simply the "lady of Landuc" or "the daughter of Duke Landuc." Landuc is identified with Lothian and thus King Lot. Thus the true origin of her name may lie, like his, with LLUDD and ultimately NODENS.

Laune 2 c? An Irish river. In Gaelic, its name is An Leamhain from leamhdn "elm-tree." Perhaps this was because there were many elms along its course. However, a more likely explanation is that it took the name of a God who bore the name. Limetus is a Gaulish God of the elm and elm groves, whose worship is attested at Chateauneuf in France. 20th C.

Laura Y The Latin name for the laurel was laurus, which was, like most trees in Latin, a feminine noun. By the early Middle Ages, LAWRENCE was well established in Spain and Italy and popularly associated with the laurel. Thus the idea of its use as a name was already established in the medieval psyche. Moreover, the feminine LAURENTIA also existed. Whether Laura arose as a short form of the latter or independent coinage inspired by the former is impossible after more than a thousand years to say, but it is likely to be one or the other. The first known bearer was the ninth-century Spanish St. Laura of Cordoba. Laura, Lora, and the diminutive LORETTA were all in use in Britain by the end of the thirteenth century. Dim: LOLLY (mod); Fr: Laure, W: LOWRI. Bearers: Laura de Noves (1310-48), wife of the Count de Sade, who is thought to be the most likely candidate for Petrarch's muse Laura; Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867- 1957), the American writer; Laura Palmer, the central-but dead-character of Twin Peaks (1990-91); Laura, Voyage dans le Cristal (1864) is a novel by George Sand.

Lauraine ? Lauraine can be interpreted as a respelling of either LORRAINE or of LAUREEN influenced by Lorraine, or a blend of Lorraine with LAURA. Late 19th C.

Laurea 2 Latin: laurea "laurel tree." 18th C.

Laureen Y A late nineteenth-century elaboration of LAURA, modeled on names such as Doreen and Kathleen. Var: Lorene, Laurene, Loreen, LORENA.

Laurel Y Laurel is now mostly associated with the cherry laurel, often called the English laurel in North America, probably because of its wholesale planting on British estates in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as cover for game birds. Traditionally, however, it referred to the bay laurel, usually now called a bay tree, or simply bay. ME: lorier < Fr: Laurier < OF: lor < L: laurus "laurel." The word is also used to mean an "emblem of victory," sometimes used in the plural "laurels," deriving from the ancient practice of making crowns of bay leaves to place upon the heads of victors, originating in the ancient games at Delphi. In the language of flowers, the laurel stands for ambition and glory. 19th C. Var: Laurell, Laurelle.

Lauren 2 Lauren was not quite unheard of before Lauren Bacall (b. 1924)-born Betty Joan Perske. However, most use post-dates her appearance in *To Have and Have Not* (1944). Essentially, a variant of LAUREEN, some early examples are male. Var: Lauryn.

Laurentia Y Feminine form of LAWRENCE. It was in use in the Middle Ages, but was absorbed as time went on by LAURA. Laurentia returned in the eighteenth century. Var: Laurencia, Laurencina, Laurentina. Fr: Laurence, It: Lorenza.

Laurie c? Y Originally, Laurie was a pet-form of LAURA and LAWRENCE. As a male name, it has largely been confined to Scotland, but is found as a name in its own right across the ESW from the nineteenth century. Some examples may well have been adoptions of the surname, which derives from the same source. In the twentieth century, Laurie is found as a girl's name. "Annie Laurie" was a popular Scottish song written in 1834 by Alicia Scott, based on an early eighteenth-century poem attributed to William Douglas.

Laurin e A king of the dwarves in a medieval German poem. Laurin possessed a magic ring, girdle, and cap. His name is probably derived from LAWRENCE, or was perhaps conceived as a masculine form of LAURA.

Lautan ' 2 Malay: lautan "ocean."

Lavender ? e Anglo-Norman: lavendre < L: lavandula < lava "to wash." It probably acquired its name through the Roman practice of using it to scent the water in the baths, essentially making it the "washing herb." Lavender has been one of the most popular garden herbs since ancient times, highly valued for its spikes of fragrant, purple-blue flowers which were used in garlands in Antiquity and strewn on the floors of churches at festivals in the Middle Ages. It was also burnt on the Summer Solstice bonfires in the belief that it would ward off evil spirits, a tradition which probably dates to pre-Christian offerings to the Gods. In the past it was used as a flavoring in cooking, but this is rare now, and its use today is mostly in sachets to go under pillows to aid sleep or to put in drawers and wardrobes. Medicinally, it is now the most-used oil, externally as an antiseptic and to heal minor cuts and burns, sometimes taken internally to relieve fatigue and low spirits, or rubbed onto the temples to cure a nervous headache. Magically, it is used for purification and healing, and it is believed that carrying lavender will help a person see ghosts. In the language of flowers, lavender stands both for devotion-and distrust. The surname Lavender is from OF: lavandier "washerman" and lavandiere "washerwoman." 17th C, though mostly male until the early twentieth. Bearers: Lavender Brown, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Laverna Y Roman Goddess of gain and trickery, who was called the Goddess of thieves by the poet Horace and playwright Plautus. It is believed she was once a Goddess of night and the underworld, worshipped at night in solitary places-leading to her association with thieves. She is also associated with Witchcraft. Most of Laverna's use as a given name has been as an elaboration of LAVERNE.

Laverne Y d Laverne originated as a surname, a variant spelling of Lavergne, which comes from one of the places in France of the name. CC: *werno- "alder." Since then, it has sometimes been associated with the English vernal < L: vernus "of the spring," and also LAVERNA. 19th C. Var: Lavern.

Laverock Gi Y Another name for the lark. OE: laferce "lark." The surname Laverick comes from it. 19th C.

Lavinia Y The second wife of the Roman hero Aeneas. Lavinia was the daughter of the king of Latium. She is said to have given her name to the town of Lavinium in Latium, but in reality it is probably the other way around. A clue to its ultimate origin lies with Lavinium in Calabria. This took its name from a small river running through it called the Laus, which almost certainly derives from PIE: *lou(e) "to wash." It is likely that Lavinium in Latium arose the same way. 17th C. Dim: Vinnie, Vinny. Var: Lavenia, Lavonia (hist). It has been much confused with LEVINA. Bearers: Lavinia Fenton, later Duchess of Bolton (1708-60), the English actress. Lavinia (2008) is a novel by Ursula K. Le Guin.

Law c' 2 English "law" comes from ON: *lagu "something laid or fixed," and is ultimately from the same root as the verbs "to lie" and "to lay." It has been used in the sense of rules and regulations since at least the early eleventh century. The surname Law has a very different origin. OE: hlaw "hill" or "burial mound"-although in some cases it may also have arisen as a short form of LAWRENCE. 17th C. The Book of the Law (1904) is the sacred text of Thelema, written by Aleister Crowley, and is famous for two particular quotes which have been very influential in the modern Pagan movement: "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law," and "Love is the law, love under will."

Lawrence c~ Lawrence evolved from the Roman surname Laurentius "of Laurentium," Laurentium being a town in Latium, which almost certainly derives from L: laurus "bay tree" or lauretum "laurel grove." It was borne by a third-century saint, who is largely responsible for the popularity of the name in later times. He was a medieval favorite, with many churches dedicated to him, and its use in the Middle Ages gave rise to many surnames such as Lawrence, Lawrenson, Laurie, Lowrie, Lawson, and Larkin. It also became established and popular in Ireland from an early date, where it has often been used to render Lorcan. Var: Laurence. Dim: LAW, LARRY, LAURIE, Lanty (Ir). Sc Ga: Labhrainn, It Ga: Labhras, Scand: LARS, Lorens, Icelandic: Larus, Dut: Laurens, Fr: Laurent, Rom: Laurentiu, Ger: Lorenz, Fin: Lauri; Lassi (dim), Dan: Lauritz, Ru: Lavrantiy, Cat: Llorenç, It, Sp: LORENZO, Hun: Lőrinc, Pol: Wawrzyniec. Bearers: Laurence Sterne (1713-68), the Irish writer; Lawrence Oates (1880-1912), the British explorer; Laurence Olivier (1907-

89), the English actor; Lawrence Durrell (1912-90), the English novelist; Lawrence WattEvans (b. 1954), the American fantasy and science-fiction writer.

Lawtan c~ In Ugaritic mythology Lawtan was a sevenheaded sea-serpent. He is believed to have been either the "pet" of the God Yamm, or Yamm himself in dragon-form. He became the LEVIATHAN of the Bible. Var: Loran.

Laya 2 Hausa: laya "written charm." It is also used to refer to a pattern embroidered on the left shoulder of a gown and small metal ornaments which Hausa women wear on their foreheads and temples. Meanings in other languages include "rhythm" and "cadence" in Hindi, and "warn" in Ndebele and Zulu. In some Filipino languages, such as Cebuano, it means "withered."

Layamon e Medieval form of Old Norse L9gma\$-r-/9g "law" + madr "man." Layamon was the name of an early thirteenth-century English poet known for Brut, the first English-language work to feature King Arthur. Var: Laghamon, Lawman, LAMONT, Lagman, Laghman, Lyman, Leymon, Laymond, Lymond (hist).

Layla y Arabic name-laila "night." Layla and Majnoon is a classic Arabic story about a pair of star-crossed lovers who lived in the seventh century, Majnoon (whose real name was Qays ibn al-Mulawwah ibn Muzahim) was a poet, and many poems which feature Layla are ascribed to him.'The song "Layla" (1971, 1972) by Derek and the Dominos made the name well known in the ESW. Var: Laila, LEILA, LYLA.

Layton ' English surname, taken from places called Layton and Leighton. OE: leac"leek'+ tun. 17th C. Var: Leighton.

Lazarus 5\ Latin form of Greek Lazaros < ELEAZAR. 16th C. Ru: Lazar, Hun: Lazar, Fr: Lazare, Sp, Port: Lazaro, It: Lazzaro.

Lazuli Y c~ Lazuli's full name is lapis lazuli-a bright blue stone prized in ancient times. L: lapis "stone," lazuli is the genitive of lazulus, i.e. "of lazulus"-which was one of the stone's medieval names. Another was

AZURE. They both derive from Ar: al-lazward < Persian: lajward "lapis lazuli." The stone has been valued since the days of the Ancient Egyptians for its powerful protective qualities-hence its use by the Egyptians for amulets. It has also been similarly valued for the pigment used in paint and dyes made from grinding it down; Cleopatra used powdered lapis lazuli as eye shadow. It is now used to aid dream work, increase psychic abilities, heal headaches, and boost the immune system. Late 20th C.

Lea 2 ' Lea has three distinct origins: as a variant of LEAH, a variant of LEE, and the name of a Hawaiian Goddess. Lea is the Goddess of canoe builders; it is believed she takes the form of a type of small bird called an elepaio; in this form she helps the canoe builders find the right tree to fashion a canoe from. It may be connected to Haw: le'a "joy," "pleasure," and "orgasm"; Le'a is the Hawaiian name for the star Arcturus. In Latin, lea means "lioness."

Leaena 2 Latin: leaena "lioness." Also used to render the Greek cognate Leaina, which was used as a given name in ancient times. One bearer was an Athenian courtesan of the sixth century BCE. She refused to reveal the names of the conspirators in a plot to kill the tyrants Hippias and Hipparchus, which eventually led to the establishment of democracy in Athens. She was tortured and died in prison.

Leaf c~ 2 Nowadays, Leaf is considered one of the quintessential "hippie" names of the late 1960s. Actually, Leaf's use is much older, with the first examples dating to the eighteenth century. As is often the case, this was down to the adoption of a surname, largely, but certainly by no means exclusively, used as a middle name. OE: Leofa "dear," a short form of names such as LEOFRIC.

Leah Y Leah is a classic example of a name becoming popular largely because it sounds nice rather than because of its meaning or associations. The traditional meaning in Hebrew is "cow," but some have suggested an etymology from a word meaning "weary" or "tired." In the Bible, Leah was the daughter of Laban, whom Jacob was forced to marry in order to get the bride he really wanted-her sister Rachel. Interestingly the tale of their rivalry reveals the practice of magic at the heart of Jacob's home; Leah's son brings his mother some mandrakes to use to help make her conceive,

but she trades them with the barren Rachel who, as a result, goes on to have Joseph and Benjamin. Unrelated, but worthy of mention is Old English *leac* "wood," "woodland clearing," "glade," "pasture" and "meadow" (see Lee). 16th C. Var: LEA, Leia. Fr: Lea, It: Lia, Sp: Lia. Bearers: Leah Bodine Drake (1914-64), the American poet, and author of *A Hornbook for Witches* (1950); Leah Clearwater, a werewolf in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series (2005-08); Princess Leia, one of the principal characters in the film *Star Wars* (1977) and its following films.

Leanabel Y A Romani girl's name recorded in the nineteenth century.

Leander e Probably Greek: *leon* "lion" or *laos* "people" + *aner* "man." In Greek mythology, Leander was a young man who fell in love with Hero, a priestess of Aphrodite. The two lived on either side of the Hellespont, which Leander swam nightly to be with her. One night he drowned in a storm, and Hero threw herself from her tower in grief. 16th C. Fr: Leandre, It, Port: Leandro. *Hero and Leander* (1598) was an epic poem by Christopher Marlowe, and Leigh Hunt also produced a version in 1819.

Leandra Y Feminine form of LEANDER, now the name of a genus of tropical plants. 19th C. The Romani name Leondra is probably a variant.

Leannan 2 The Leannan *Siidhe* is a figure from Irish mythology. It Ga: *leannán* "lover" and "sweetheart" + *siidhe* "fairy"-one of the Fay who has taken human form. It is believed that those loved by a Leannan are blessed by great creativity but fated to live short lives. 20th C. Var: Leanan, Leannan, Lhiannan.

Leanne Y Leanne arose in North America as a variant of LIANE. It first seems to have been used in Francophone Canada in the nineteenth century, spreading to the ESW in the early twentieth.

Lear e A mythical British king, immortalized by Shakespeare in *King Lear*, based on the account recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth in the twelfth century. Lear is almost certainly a survival of the Celtic sea God, known in Welsh as *LLYR* and Irish as *LIR*. CC: **liro-* "sea" and "ocean." The surname Lear derives from OE: *hleor* "cheep" and "face." 18th C. Var: Leir (hist).

Leary c~ Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic name Loegaire, famously borne by a fifth-century king, said to have been the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages. He was a Pagan and adversary of St. Patrick, who, in the earliest hagiographer's version of Patrick's life, refused to convert, even though Patrick tells him to convert or die. Later versions vary. 01: beg "calf" + fer "man." 19th C. Perhaps some use in the past was with Dunleary (Dun Laoghaire) in mind, from which many an emigrant sailed away to new lives in new worlds. Var: Loeguire, Laoire, Laoghaire, and Loeghaire.

Leatrice Y Leatrice first appeared in America in the late nineteenth century, and is probably a blend of LEAH and Beatrice (see Beatrix), although it may also have been inspired by the plant Liatris. Often called blazing star or gay-feather, the Liatris is native to North America and Mexico. Its name is first recorded in the early nineteenth century, but the origin is unknown. Var: Leatris.

Lecelina Y Medieval double diminutive of Lece, a petform of LETTICE, formed with the suffixes -el and -in. Var: Lescelina, Leceline.

Lech e Polish name of uncertain origins, made well known across the world by Polish President Lech Walesa (b. 1943).

Leda Y In Greek mythology, Leda was a queen of Sparta who attracted the attentions of Zeus. He visited her in the guise of a swan, but which children from this union were fathered by Zeus, and which were fathered by Tyndareus (Leda's husband) varies from version to version. The four individuals concerned are Helen of Troy, Clytemnestra, and the twins Castor and Pollux-best known as Gemini. At least one of the children hatched from an egg, but again, the myths aren't consistent about who it was. The etymology is uncertain; it is possibly related to, or cognate with the Lycian lada "wife." 17th C.

Lee c3' 2 English surname, from OE: leah "wood," "woodland clearing," "glade," "pasture" and "meadow" In Ireland it was sometimes used to Anglicize the surname Laoidhigh meaning "poet." 17th C. It is also the English translation of a common surname in many Asian countries (see Li). Bearers: Lee Jordan, a wizard in the Harry Potter series; Lee Scoresby,

a character in Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy (1995-2000).
Var: LEIGH, LEA.

Leelo Y Estonian name-leelo "folk-song" and "singsong."

Legacy Y ' Old French: legacie < Medieval L: legatia "district of a legate," the word "legacy" originally meant "legateship"-i.e. the function or role of a deputy, and used specifically of a papal envoy. In the fifteenth century, it came to mean the "act of bequeathing" and acquired its modern meaning of "bequest" and "inheritance." Early 20th C.

Legend c~ Y The word "legend" comes from Late L: legenda "that which is read" < L: lego "to read." "Legend" is often treated as synonymous with "myth," but the subtle difference acknowledged by most is that the origin of a myth is rooted mostly in allegory and etiology, while the origin of a legend may lie ultimately in fact, however much distorted over time. 20th C.

Lehua Y A red Hawaiian flower, sacred to Kukaohialaka, a male fertility God and patron of the hula dance. It is also the symbol of the island of Hawaii. It grows on the `ohi'a tree. The word has a number of other uses, such as the name of a rainbow-colored mother-of-pearl shell and a small island in the Hawaiian archipelago.

Lei c~ ? A Chinese boy's name-Mand: lei "thunder." Lei is also used as a variant of LEE or LEIGH. In recent years the Hawaiian lei "garland" and "wreath" has featured as a name for girls, often in compound names. It is the name given to the traditional necklaces of flowers so strongly associated with Hawaii, and in Hawaii itself, lei is used as a term of endearment. Since 1927, May 1 has been celebrated in Hawaii as "Lei Day."

Leialoha Y Hawaiian: lei "garland" + aloha "love."

Leib c Yiddish name-leyb "lion."

LeiC Old Norse: Leifr "descendant" or "heir." Nor: Leiv.

Leigh Y c~ The surname Leigh is a variant LEE. 17th C. Since the mid-twentieth century, it has tended to be used more for girls, and is treated by many now as the feminine form of Lee.

Leila 2 Variant of LAYLA used by Byron in *The Giaour* (1813). It was first taken up in use in the 1820s and '30s. Var: Laylah. Bearers: Leila Waddell (1880-1932), the Australian-born associate and lover of Aleister Crowley, who played a significant part in the development of Thelema. She is addressed as Laylah in *The Book of Lies* (1913).

Leilani y Hawaiian: lei "garland" + lani "heaven" and "sky."

Leimoni 2 Hawaiian: lei "garland" + moni "pearl."

Leinani Y Hawaiian: lei "garland" + nani "beauty," "glory," and "splendor."

Leith cc Y A river in Scotland, which gives its name to a town and a surname. CC: *lati- "liquid" and "fluid," from which 01: laith "ale" or "liquor" and MW: llad "drink" or "beer" also developed. 18th C.

Leland c? English surname, from Leyland in Lancashire. OE: lcege "fallow" and "untilled" + land "land." 17th C. Bearers: Leland Stanford (1819-93), the founder of Stanford University.

Lelia Y Italian form of Latin Laelia, the feminine of Laelius, a Roman gens. It has been used in Italy since the Renaissance, and in Ireland has sometimes been used to render Liadan. *Lelia* (1833) was a novel by George Sand.

Lemon 2 The name of the fruit, and the tree upon which it grows. Late L: limon < Persian: limun or Ar: limah- both referring to the fruits of the citron. The lemon's coldbusting properties are legendary, and magically it is used for purification. It is also associated with love and friendship,

and used accordingly. Sadly, in English "lemon" has also come to mean "loser," which is a shame, as the beauty and sweet fragrance of its flowers and the zesty nature and bright color of its fruit make it otherwise attractive. The surname Lemon is a corruption of Loveman, from Old

English Leofmann-leaf "beloved" + mann "man." 17th C. Var: Lemony. Bearers: Lemony Snicker, the pen name of American author Daniel Handler (b.1970). The Greek Lemoni featured as the name of a female character in Louis de Bernieres's *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* (1993).

Lemuel e Biblical name. Heb: "devoted to (a) god." Dim: Lem, Lemmy. 16th C. Bearers: Lemuel Golightly, a character in Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders* (1722); Lemuel Gulliver, the hero of Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726).

Lena Y Originally, a short form of HELENA. In the nineteenth century, it increasingly came to be used as a name in its own right. Lena is used in continental Europe as a short form of Magdalena (see Madeline). It is also the name of a river in Siberia, from which Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov coined LENIN as a pseudonym in 1902. It has a number of interesting meanings as a word in other languages too, including "young bee" in Sotho, "breath" or "energy" in Italian, and "sound asleep" in Malay. In Hawaiian, it means "yellow," where it is also the name of a star (believed to be Sirius) and is also used of a yellow-tinted rain which falls on certain islands. Scand: Lene. Bearers: Lena Horne (1917-2010), the American singer and actress.

Lenaeus c? Epithet of Dionysus. Gr: lenaios "of the winepress."

Lenda Y A variant of LINDA, a blend of Linda with LENA, or a truncated form of GLENDA; whatever the inspiration, it is a typical late nineteenth-century coinage. In Portuguese, lenda means "legend" and "fairy-tale."

Lenity 2 Latin: lenitas "softness," "gentleness," "mildness." In English, it is also used to mean "mercifulness." 18th C.

Lennon c' Irish surname, the Anglicized form of O Leannain, which is probably from Jr Ga: leannan "lover" or "sweet-heart," used in this context as a byname (but see also Leannan). Alternatively, it may be a variant of O Lonain "descendant of LONAN." It was first used in the nineteenth century, though most use has been since the 1960s in honor of John Lennon (1940-80), further fuelled by Liam Gallagher naming his son Lennon in 1999.

Lenor ? ' Romani: lennor "spring" and "summer."

Lennox c' Y Scottish surname, deriving from the district of Lennox in Dunbartonshire. In Scots Gaelic, this is Leamhnachd < leamhan "elm" + achadh "field." "This was first Anglicized as Levenax, and later Lennox. 17th C. Var: Lenox.

Lenny c' 2 Originally a short form of LEONARD, it has since also come into use as both a name in its own right and as a short form of some girls' names, such as CHARLENE and HELENA, Var: Leni, Lennie. Dim: Len.

Lenore Y Variant of LEONORA. It featured in a German ballad of 1773 by Gottfried August Burger, and was used by Edgar Allan Poe in "Lenore" (1843), and "The Raven" (1845).

Lenus (' Celtic God, recorded in inscriptions from Britain to Germany. He is strongly associated with Mars, but has shrines at healing wells and may be a God of healing as well as war. The meaning of his name is very uncertain, but may possibly be CC: *li-n-a- "stick to," *hno- "pus" or *lino "linen," which conjure up quite a graphic image of battlewounds and bandages, quite consistent with a God of war and healing! Var: Laenus.

Leo a Latin: leo "lion." Principally, a constellation, the zodiac sign of those born between July 24 and August 23. Its ruling planet is the Sun, its element Fire, and its birthstones rubies and diamonds. The constellation is said to represent the Nemean lion, killed by Hercules, but it was first called a lion by the Ancient Egyptians. Leos are said to be kind, loyal, hopeful, and energetic, but prone to jealousy and bossiness. As a given name, Leo was first used as a papal name the first in the fifth century. It was used as a given name in the Middle Ages, alongside LEON. After the Reformation, Leo continued in use among Roman Catholics, returning to general use again in the twentieth century. It is often used as a short form of other names beginning with Leo- such as LEONARDO. Bearers: Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910), the Russian novelist-whose real first name was LYEV; Leo Strauss (1899-1973), the political philosopher; Leonardo "Leo" Wyatt, a "white-lighter" in the American television drama Charmed (1998-2006).

Leocadia Y Fourth-century Spanish saint. It is tempting to suggest that Leocadia is what early medieval Spaniards made of LEUCOTHEA. Another intriguing possible link is with Leucasia, the name of mermaid

associated with Leuca in Southern Italy. Gr: leukos "light," "bright," or "clear." The most likely option, however, is Latin Leucadius "from Leukas"-a peninsula in Greece now known as Lefkadia. This also derives from Gr: leukos (although leukas was also the Ancient Greek for "dead-nettle"). Leucadius was used as an epithet of Apollo, acquired through a temple to him there, while Leucadius or Leucasius was also the name of a brother of Penelope.

Leodegar cc English form of Old German Luitger-leudi "people" + ger "spear." It was borne by a seventh-century saint popular in Northern Europe. Introduced by the Normans, it gave rise to the surnames Leger and Ledger. It didn't survive, however, and examples of Leger from the eighteenth century are the surname. Fr: Leger.

Leodegrance c~ In Arthurian legend, Leodegrance is the name of the father of Guinevere. The first element of his name appears to be the Latin lea "lion" followed by the French de "of," perhaps influenced by LEODEGAR. That this was assumed to be its meaning is clear from the fact a variant form is Leondegrance/-eon being the French form of Leo. However, it is more likely that the name represents a very garbled rehashing of the name of Guinevere's father in the older Welsh versions-Ogyrvan, Ogyruan, or Gogyrfan. Ogyrvan is called a giant-rather a giveaway that we are actually dealing with the survival of a God. The similarity of the first two to the word "ogre" by Norman-French poets may have led to the assumption that Ogyrvan meant "the ogre Van," inviting the addition of a French le in front, thus creating the possible missing link *Leogyrvan-the resemblance of this to Leodegrance is striking. The meaning of Ogyrvan is unfortunately not straightforward either. Possibly, it derives from CC: *wogro- "sound" + *bandyf "drop," from which the MW ban "loud" evolved.

Leofric a' Old English: leof "dear" + ric. It survived the Norman Conquest long enough for surnames such as Leverage to derive from it. Bearers: Leofric, Earl of Mercia (968-1057).

Leofwin a' Old English: leof "dear" + wine. It lasted long enough in the Middle Ages to give rise to a few surnames, such as Lewin and Levin. Var: Leofwyn.

Leoline e Y Anglicized form of LLYWELYN, used from the thirteenth century. Var: Leolin. Fem: Leolina (hist).

Bearers: Sir Leoline Jenkins (1625-85), the Welsh academic and politician.

Leon G~ Both the Medieval French and Greek form of LEO. Used since the Middle Ages. Because "Leon." was used as an abbreviation of Leonard in parish registers, it is not easy to judge how much general use Leon saw after the Reformation. It is known, however, that the name continued in use among the Jewish community, and in the course of the nineteenth century returned to general use. Var: Lyon. Dan, Ger: Leon, Fr: Leon, Sp: Leon, It: Leone, Ru: LYEV. Bearers: Leon, King of Sparta (fl. 590-560 BCE); Leon Foucault (1819-68), the French scientist and inventor of "Foucault's Pendulum."

Leona Y Feminine form of LEON, or contracted form of LEONORA. 17th C. Var: Leonne. Fr: Leone.

Leonard c? Old German name-levon "lion" + hardu "hardy" or "bold." It was the name of a fifth-century saint who was very popular in the Middle Ages. Dim: Len, LENNY, LEO. Scand: Lennart, Fr: Leonard, Ger: Leonhard, It, Port, Sp: LEONARDO. Bearers: Leonard Bernstein (1918-90), the American composer; Leonard Woolley (1880-1960), the British archaeologist; Leonard Cohen (b. 1934), the Canadian singer-songwriter and writer; Leonard Peltier (b. 1944), the Native American activist.

Leonardo Cc The Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese form of LEONARD. Used in the ESW since the late sixteenth century. Dim: LEO. Bearers: Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), the Italian Renaissance polymath; Leonardo diCaprio (b. 1974), the American actor.

Leonidas e Ancient Greek name, borne by more than one figure in Greek history. Leonidas I, King of Sparta (c. 540-480 BCE), was the leader of the Greek forces at the Battle of Thermopylae (480 BCE), in the last stages of which Leonidas, with three hundred crack Spartan warriors, held the pass at Thermopylae against up to a quarter of a million Persians. Gr: leon "lion" + the suffix -idas, equivalent to the -ides of Athenian names. St. Leonidas is popular in the Orthodox Church. 17th C. Ru: Leonid.

Leonie Y In the Middle Ages, Leonia and Leonina were used as the feminine forms of LEO and LEON, and LEONA became the usual feminine form in later centuries. Leonie was taken up in the ESW in the nineteenth century. Fr: Leonie.

Leonora Y Leonora almost certainly developed as a variant of ELEANOR in Italy in the Middle Ages. Used in the ESW since the eighteenth century, encouraged by its appearance in literature and opera, such as Henry Fielding's *Joseph Andrews* (1742), Beethoven's *Fidelio* (1805), Maria Edgeworth's *Leonora* (1806), and Verdi's *Il Trovatore* (1853). Bearers: Leonora d'Este (1515-75), the daughter of Lucrezia Borgia and patroness of Torquato Tasso; Leonora Christina of Schleswig-Holstein, Countess Ulfeldt (1621-98), the daughter of King Christian IV of Denmark, whose remarkable life and twenty-one-year imprisonment made her a Danish legend; Leonora Piper (1857-1950), the American trance spiritualist. Var: Lenor, Lenora, LENORE. Ger: Leonore, Fr: Leonore.

Leontina 2 Latin feminine of Leontinus "belonging to Leontius." Leontius is the name of more than one early saint, and is the Latin form of Greek Leontios "of a lion," from which the Russian male name Leonti also derives. Leontinus was also used in the ancient world to mean "from Leontini," a Greek colony in Sicily. It was borne as a byname by the Sophist philosopher Gorgias (c. 485-c. 380 BCE). 19th C. Fr: Leontine.

Leopold cc' Old German: Luitpold-leudi "people" + bald "bold." The form Leopold was heavily influenced by LEO. Used in the ESW in the nineteenth century in honor of Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (1790-1865), the first King of Belgium, and uncle to both Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Leopold's first wife was Princess Charlotte of Wales, the only child and heir of King George IV. Had she not died in childbirth in 1817, it would have been Leopold, not Albert, who eventually became the consort to a British queen. Bearers: Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany (1853-84), the fourth son and eighth child of Queen Victoria. Fr: Leopold, It, Sp: Leopoldo.

Leroy c French surname-/e roi "the king." 18th C. It is largely responsible for the numerous creations beginning in Le- which exist today. Var: LeRoy, Le Roy; Leeroy, Lee Roy (mod).

Lesath c~ 2 Traditional name of Upsilon Scorpii, a star in Scorpio. Ar: latkhah "stain," "blotch," "smudge"-a reference to a nearby open cluster.

Lesbia Y Lesbia, meaning "woman of Lesbos" was a pseudonym used by the Roman poet Catullus in his poems to, and about, his mistress, generally accepted to have been Clodia (c. 95/94-aft. 56 BCE), a notorious Roman aristocrat. It was a reference to the poetess Sappho, who came from Greek island of Lesbos. 19th C.

Lesley Y The usual spelling of LESLIE when used as a girl's name in Britain. Its use is largely due to Robert Burns's late eighteenth-century poem "Bonnie Lesley," about a woman called Lesley Baillie (d. 1843). Bearers: Lesley Garrett (b. 1955), the British opera singer.

Leslie c' Y Scottish surname, deriving from Leslie in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The older form of the name was Lesslyn, and it probably derives from Sc Ga: leas "garden" + celyn "holly." 17th C. Var: LESLEY; Lesly, Lezlie, Lezli (mod). Bearers: Leslie Howard (1893-1943), the English actor; Leslie Nielsen (1926-2010), the Canadian-born American actor. The real name of Bob Hope (1903-2003) was Leslie Hope.

Lestari ? Indonesian name-lestari "everlasting," "eternal," and "sustainable." Lestari also means "everlasting" and "eternal" in Malay.

Lester c~ English surname, partly a variant of Lister < ME: lit(t)e "to dye," thus "dyer," and partly from the English city of Leicester, the origin of which is not entirely clear. The second part is OE: ceaster "Roman fort." The significance of the first element, however, is disputed. Some believe it was originally LEAR, though they argue that this Lear was really a king rather than a deity. More likely, however, it refers to the tribal people of the area, or represents the Celtic name of the River Soar-the Legra. Intriguingly, the name of the French River Loire in Roman times was the very similar Liger, deriving from a Celtic source, and may well be cognate. This is possibly CC: *leg-o- "to melt" or *leg-o- "to lie down," perhaps combined with *r(Eno- "large expanse of water" < PIE: *reyH- "flow." 17th C.

Leta 2 Leta is sometimes said to be a variant of Latin Laeta < laetus "happy." However, there is little or no evidence for Laeta's use prior to the

nineteenth century, and even then this was sparse, while Leta is found as a given name from the late eighteenth century. The most likely option, therefore, is that it arose as a short form of LETITIA, or as a variant of LEDA or Lethe. Given the fact that Leda and Leta are pronounced almost identically in America, it is not difficult to see how such an unfamiliar name might end up spelled Leta. As for Lethe-from Greek lithe "oblivion"-it is the name of the river in the Underworld where the dead drank to induce forgetfulness. It and its variant Letha are found as early as the seventeenth century, and could also be a source of Leta. Nevertheless, Leta as a variant of Laeta is known; a tomb in Rome of the fifth century inscribed Leta Presbitera-Leta "the Clergywoman" was found at the end of the nineteenth century, while Laeta was the name of a wife of the fourth-century Emperor Gratian.

Letitia ? Letitia is the slightly simpler-and considerably more popular-form of Laetitia, which means "happiness" in Latin. The name of a Roman Goddess, the personification of happiness, Letitia came into use in about the twelfth century. For much of its history it was used in the vernacular form LETTICE, but Letitia returned to favor in the eighteenth century. Sp: Leticia, It: Letizia. Bearers: Letitia Landon (1802-38), the English poet and novelist.

Leto Y Known to the Romans as LATONA, Leto is a Titaness, a daughter of Coeus and Phoebe, and mother of Artemis and Apollo. She is an otherwise shadowy figure in the Greek Pantheon, largely mentioned in myths in which her children defend her from danger or insults. The etymology of her name is obscure; theories include that it derives from Gr: lethe "oblivion," or, like LEDA, from Lycian: lada "woman" and "lady." Another possibility is a derivation from PIE: *platzis "broad" and "flat." This is almost certainly the origin of the name of two other Goddesses-LITOVIS and LATIARAN-which would make Leto, like them, an Earth Goddess. This is a particularly enticing possibility given the story regarding the birth of Apollo and Artemis, in which Leto is forced to wander from land to land trying to find somewhere to give birth. Early 20th C.

Lettice ? English form of LETITIA, which was popular in the Middle Ages and early modern period. The Medieval French Lece-Latinized as Lecia-was not uncommon either, and other forms in use included Letice, Lettyce, and Lettys. Dim: Lefty. Bearers: Lettice Knollys (1543-1634), a cousin of Queen Elizabeth I through her grandmother, Mary Boleyn-the "other Boleyn girl"; Lettice Earwig, a Witch in Terry Pratchett's Discworld series (1983-).

Leucothea y Greek: leukos "white" + thea "Goddess." Leucothea is the White Goddess. It is the name given to Ino, the aunt of Dionysus, after she became a Goddess. Ino had been driven mad by Hera, leading her to kill her son and plunge with his dead body into the sea. Jupiter took pity upon her, transforming her into a benevolent sea Goddess. 20th C.

Leucothoe Y The daughter of a Babylonian king beloved by Phoebus. Gr: leukos "white" + thoos "swift."

Levanah y Modern Hebrew name, which is essentially the feminine form of LABAN. The word levanah is also used to mean "moon." Kiddush levanah, meaning "sanctification of the moon," is a Jewish ritual performed every month at the new moon. Var: Levana.

Levente c Hungarian name-levo "being."

Leveret Y 5' The name given to a baby hare. OF: levrette < levre "hare." The surname derives from the same source. 17th C. A character called Leveret appears in Kit Berry's Stonewylde series (2005-).

Levi c' Biblical name. Traditionally derived from the verb lawah "to attach." Levi was said to be the ancestor and founder of the tribe of Levi; in reality his name almost certainly comes from the tribe, and its true origin may not even be Hebrew at all. 16th C.

Leviathan e Leviathan is the name of a sea monster which features in the Bible, identified with the Ugaritic LAWATAN. Deriving from a Hebrew word meaning "twisted" or "coiled"; it is unclear whether it is cognate with Lawtan, or whether it represents a Hebrew interpretation of the Ugaritic name. 19th C. Levaithen is a Romani boy's name.

Levina Y Also found as Lavena and Lavina, and later in a number of other guises, such as Lavine, Lavyne, Lovenia, and Lovina-the latter probably influence strongly by LOVE. Levina is usually treated as a variant of LAVINIA, even though it is encountered before Lavinia came into use. In reality, it is almost certainly a completely separate name, probably a survival of Old English Leofwynn-leaf"dear" + wynn "joy." Leofwynn is attested as a woman's name in the tenth and eleventh centuries, also recorded as Leofwen and Leofwenne.'There are numerous examples of Levina from the sixteenth century, and in the seventeenth-and much of the eighteenth-it was still more common than Lavinia. It continued in use into the nineteenth, by which time there is evidence to suggest it had begun to be treated as a feminine of LEVI.

Levity 2 Latin: levitas "lightness," referring to weight, temperament, or mood. Its use in Modern English is more or less the same as-often treated as synonymous with-frivolity,jocularly, or fickleness.

Levon cc Armenian form of LEO. Five kings of Armenia bore the name between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries.

Lewis cc English form of LOUIS. Lewis was common in the Middle Ages, giving rise to surnames such as Lewis and Lewison, etc. It was used in Wales to render Llywelyn into English. Lewis is also the name of one of the Western Isles, whose name in Gaelic is Leodhas.'This is probably Sc Ga: leogach "hanging loosely," "slovenly," and, by extension, "marshy."The island is noted for its many prehistoric sites, in particularly the magnificent stone circle at Callanish. From the sixteenth century, Lewis was reinforced by the adoption of the surname. Dim: Lou, Louie, Lew, Lewie, Lewey. Var: Lowis (hist). W: Lewys. Bearers: Lewis Carroll (1832-98), the British writer-whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson.

Lex 5' Short form of ALEXANDER, used as a given name in its own right since the nineteenth century. It is also the Latin for "law." Bearers: Lex Luthor, the well-known villain in the Superman universe.

Lexie 2 Scottish pet-form of ALEXANDRA and ALEXINA. Lexie was first used as an independent name in the late nineteenth century.'The name was made better known in the rest of the ESW through the character of

Alexandra "Lexie" MacDonald in the British drama *Monarch of the Glen* (2000- 06). Var: Lexi, Lexy, Lexine. Sc Ga: Leagsaidh.

Ley 5' Y Generally, Ley is a variant of LEE, but since the 1920s, the word has also been applied to ley lines-primitive tracks from hilltop to hilltop with notable features along the way, such as burial mounds and standing stones. Many believe they possess significant energy. Leys were rediscovered by the archaeologist and antiquarian Alfred Watkins. Var: Lay.

Leyre Y Modern Spanish name, deriving from Santa Maria de Leyre-a small town in Navarre, famous for its medieval monastery. It is thought to take its name from the Celtic name of the river flowing through the town, in turn believed to derive from the same source as the River Loire in France and the Soar in England (see Lester). Var: Leire.

Li ci 2 Li is best known as a Chinese surname. Mand: lǐ "plum"; lì "black; li "advantage," "profit" or "sharp." It is also found as a girl's name. Mand: lì "pear"; lì "beautiful." These are sometimes doubled as Li-Li, Lili or even LILY, such as the Hong Kong actress, Lily Li (b. 1950).

Liadan Y Old Irish name, borne by an obscure saint (whose name is often rendered by Lelia) and appearing in a ninth-century love story, in which Liadan is a poetess. Her name is traditionally derived from Jr Ga: liath "grey" + dim. suffix -dn. Although there are problems with this, it still seems the most likely source. Mid-20th C. Var: Liadin; Liadain (hist).

Liam c~ A short form of WILLIAM, treated as the Irish form of the name since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Liam Cosgrave (b. 1920), a former Taoiseach (prime minister) of the Republic of Ireland; Liam Neeson (b. 1952), the Irish actor; William "Liam" Gallagher (b. 1972), lead singer of the rock band Oasis.

Lian Y c3' Chinese name. Mand: lián "lotus"; lìán "refine."

Liane Y Liane developed in France in the late nineteenth century as a shortened form of Eliane (see Eliana) or Juliane (see Juliana). Liane de Pougy (1869-1950)-born Anne Marie Chassaigne-was a celebrated dancer at the FoliesBergeres in Paris, later a novelist, and, following her marriage

in 1920 to a prince, a European socialite. She was largely responsible for the name's popularity in France, which spread elsewhere in the twentieth century, mutating first to Lianne and then LEANNE. Var: Liana, Lianna.

Liban cc Y An Arabic boy's name and an Irish girl's. The boy's is Ar: liban "nursing." The girl's comes from Irish mythology-Li Ban, a Goddess, the sister of Fand. As Liban, she found her way into Irish legend as a mermaid compelled to swim round and round Ireland, eventually rescued by St. Comgall and turned into a saint. 01: If "color" + ban "shining (white)." She is also known as Muirgen.

Libby y Originally a pet-form of ELIZABETH, Libby is now also used as a short form of LIBERTY, as well as being used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century. A character in the Australian soap opera Neighbours (1985-) may be responsible for its use in Britain and Australia in recent years.

Libentina Y Epithet of Venus, as Goddess of sensual pleasure, deriving from L: libens "willing" and "glad." Not to be confused with Libitina, the Roman Goddess of corpses, whose name was synonymous with Death and who was identified by the Romans with Proserpina. Her name is etymologically related, both connected to L: Tiber "free," found in the names of the God Liber and Goddess Libera, who is also associated with Proserpina. Libitina's temple was a place where everything pertaining to burial could be bought or hired; her name was also used to mean "burial paraphernalia" and "funeral bier," etc.

Liber c~ A Roman God of agriculture. L: liber "free." When the Romans superimposed the Greek pantheon upon their own, he became identified with Dionysus. Libera is his female counterpart. 19th C.

Libera Y A Roman fertility Goddess, the female counterpart of LIBER. She is considered a daughter of Ceres, and identified with Proserpina in her aspect as a fertility Goddess. She is also sometimes linked to Ariadne, because Ariadne is the consort of Dionysus. 18th C.

Liberty Y The Roman Goddess Libertas is the personification of "liberty," acquiring her first temple in 238 BCE during the Second Punic War.

Although Liberty is considered a modern name, it first came into use in the eighteenth century as a name for boys as well as girls. In Britain, some use in the twentieth century may have been inspired by the exclusive West End department store Liberty & Co, founded in 1875. In America, the most familiar association is the famous cracked eighteenth-century Liberty Bell, which resides in Philadelphia.

Libra 2 The name of a constellation and sign of the Zodiac. L: Libra "pair of scales." The constellation's identification as a pair of scales is ancient. It is the only one of the signs of the zodiac which is an inanimate object, rather than an animal or human. They are considered now to be the scales held by Virgo to symbolize justice, although originally, they formed the claws of Scorpio; in Greek, an alternative name for the constellation was "the Claws." Ruling over September 24-October 23, those born under Libra are said to possess strengths such as idealism, gracefulness, peacefulness, and diplomacy, but weaknesses such as indecision, vanity, and unreliability. For some inexplicable reason, it was taken up as a given name in Scotland in the seventeenth century, but most of its use elsewhere dates from the late twentieth century.

Liese Y German short form of ELIZABETH, which has seen independent use in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. Dim: Liesel, Liesl, Lieschen. Liese is also found blended with Charlotte as Lieselotte. Bearers: Liesl von Trapp, a character in *The Sound of Music* (1965).

Liewe 2 Afrikaans: liewe "dear" (see Heksie).

Life 2 a Life-the condition of being alive-is the first cuckoo of the summer, a full moon on frosted snow, the cry of a newborn baby, and wrinkles creasing with an old man's smile. Life is, and it has been used as a given name since the seventeenth century. And in one of those marvelous coincidences that makes life worth living, in Zulu, life (pronounced "LEE-fe") means "let it die."

Light e Y The spiritual significance of light is linked inexorably with darkness in many spiritual traditions. Sometimes this is taken a step further, with light being associated with "good" and darkness "evil," but most Pagans believe that light and darkness are neither good nor bad, and that

each is necessary to the other, perfectly balanced, very much in the same way of thinking of Eastern philosophy of yin and yang. Light is, however, generally recognized as positive, healing, enriching, nurturing, and protecting, closely linked with the element of Fire and the sun. It is central to a number of healing systems such as Reiki. The surname Light derives from the same source as the noun-OE: *leoht*, thought to have been originally used of someone who lived in a well-lit place. 18th C.

Lila Y Lila first appeared in the ESW in the nineteenth century, either as a Latinized form of LILY or variant of LEILA-or perhaps a bit of both. Lila (var: Leela) is also an Indian girl's name, from San: lily "past-time" and "play." It is used in Hinduism to refer to the "creative play" of Brahman, which led to the creation of the universe. Var: Lilah, Lilla, Lillah. Bearers: Lila Lee (1901-73), the American actressborn Augusta Appel.

Lilac Y The lilac, with its distinctive cones of fragrant tiny cruciform flowers, is a popular tree very symbolic of the late spring, flowering around the time of Beltane. Fr: lilac < Sp: lilac < Ar: lilak < Persian: likak < Persian: nil "blue" and "indigo"-cognate with NILA. The lilac is symbolic of first love. Magically, the oil is used to conjure up distant memories and help recall past lives. Late 19th C.

Lilian Y Although evidence is scant, it seems fairly conclusive that Lilian's roots lie in the Middle Ages, when Lylie was used as a pet-form of Elizabeth (Lill is still used as such in Germany today). An example of Lilion as a surname in the thirteenth century points to it acquiring a form of the dim. suffix -an in this period. Lilian itself is first recorded in the sixteenth century-at the same time as Liliias appeared in Scotland-and it was embraced in the nineteenth century. Dim: LILY, Lil. Var: Lillian, Liliana, Lilyana. Sc Ga: Lileas. Bearers: Lillian Rearden, a character in Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* (1957).

Lilibet Y Originally a pet-form of ELIZABETH. It was used by the British royal family as the pet name of Queen Elizabeth II as a child. 20th C.

Lilith Y Lilith's origins are extremely ancient, and lie with the Sumerian: lil "air." In Sumerian mythology, the male lilu and female lilitu were ethereal beings (often dubbed "demons" by many writers), who slept with humans

in their dreams, making them akin to the incubus and succubus of Judeo-Christian tradition. Gilgamesh's father was said to have been a lilu. Among the Akkadians, the name was associated with lildtu "evening," and later, the Hebrews took it to be derived from /ail "night." Thus her name was interpreted as meaning "night-hag." Even by the time of the Assyrians, the associations were hardly complementary-said to prey on women and children, the Lilitu were associated with disease and dwelt in deserts, and also were called the prostitutes of Ishtar. The legend that Lilith was the first wife of Adam had developed by about the fifth century BCE. Late 19th C. Lilith (1895) was a novel by George Macdonald.

Lillai 2 Romani: lillai "spring" and "summer."

Lily Y Like Rose, Lily is a name whose origins are not quite as obvious as they appear. In Lily's case it developed as a short form of LILIAN, and thus its roots lie with ELIZABETH. Its associations, however, with the flower are deep and the name is found as a given name from the seventeenth century. The lily has long been a symbol of purity, epitomized by the Madonna lily, which features in wall paintings at Knossos in Crete dating to c. 1500 BCE. Lilies were sacred to the Cretan Dictynna, and are also associated with Aphrodite, but most of all the lily is considered to be Hera/Juno's flower. The first lilies were believed to have sprung from drops of Hera's milk, when she awoke to find the infant Hercules suckling at her breast (Zeus had put him there, hoping to give his son by Alcmene a sort of "immortality booster"). Hera angrily flung the baby aside, and most of the milk which spurted forth formed the Milky Way. Because the lily was sacred to Juno, it featured in Roman wedding ceremonies-a tradition which has survived to the present time. In the language of flowers, the lily has many meanings, depending on variety and color; principally, however, it symbolizes purity-especially the white lily. An orange lily, however, stands for hatred, while the tiger lily carries associations of wealth and pride. The fragrant lily-of-the-valley-also known as the May lily and Our Lady's tears-has been used by herbalists since ancient times and is valued as a cardiac tonic, while the bulb of the Madonna Lily is also used as a demulcent, and in Japan is eaten as a delicacy. L: lilium "lily." Var: Lillie, Lilly, Lilley. Bearers: Lily Allen (b. 1985), the British singer-songwriter; Lily Munster, a

principal character in the American sitcom *The Munsters* (1964-66); Lily Potter, the Witch mother of J. K. Rowling's hero Harry.

Lime c' 2 Sharing many of the same properties as well as the same ultimate etymology as LEMON, "lime" is also another name for the linden. Magically, limes are used for purification and carry the additional qualities of healing and protection.

Limenia Y Epithet of Hera, Aphrodite, and Artemis. Gr: limen "harbor." 19th C.

Limnaea y Greek: limnaios "of a lake." An epithet of Artemis at Sicyon, near Epidaurus, and also used of nymphs. Var: Limnaia.

Lin Y cc In English, Lin is used as a short form of any name beginning with Lin- such as LINDA and LINCOLN. It is also a Chinese name. Mand: lin "gem"; lin "luster of a gem"; lin "wood"; lin "clear"; lin "female unicorn."

Lina Y A Norse Goddess of flax and weaving, who was probably in origin an aspect of Frigg, to whom the flax plant is sacred, and who is noted for her weaving. In Lithuania, the girl's name Lina and its male equivalent Linas are still very much associated with flax-Lith: linas "flax." The name is also used in the Islamic world, deriving from Ar: lsn "soft" and "tender." Generally, however, Lina's origins are more prosaic. It first occurs in the Middle Ages as a short form of names ending in -lina, such as Adelina and Lecelina. It started to appear again in the eighteenth century, when it was mostly used as a short form of CAROLINE. By the nineteenth century, it was in independent use once more.

Lincoln c~ English surname, taken from the historic city founded by the Romans. Its name then was Lindum, from CC: *lindo- "pool." Lincoln itself combines Lindum with L: colonia "colony." 17th C. Use in America since the nineteenth century has often been in honor of President Abraham Lincoln (1809-65).

Linda 2 Linda is now frequently associated with Sp: lindo "cute," "lovely," and "pretty," but it was originally used as a short form of names ending in -

linda and -lind. In the oldest of these, it is OG: linde "serpent" or lindi "soft" and "tender." Linda is also the name of the mother of Kalevipoeg, the eponymous hero of the Estonian epic poem composed by Friedrich Kreutzwald and published in 1853, which was based on Estonian folklore. Most use of the name has been since the nineteenth century. Var: Lynda. Dim: LIN, Lind, Lindy, Lindi, Lindie.

Linden 5 Y The linden tree-often called a lime-is a very long-lived tree which is revered in many cultures. In Slavic mythology, it may have been sacred to Lado, and it remains the national emblem of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Slovenia. In Germanic tradition, it was associated with justice and peace, and judicial matters were settled beneath its branches well into Christian times. Linden is widely regarded as a tree of protection, and hanging branches of linden over an entrance is an old European practice. The wood-usually called limewood-has long been valued because it is easy to carve and largely free of knots. Medicinally, it is used to treat a whole range of conditions, from coughs and colds to high blood pressure and some cardiac conditions. In Greek mythology, Baucis and Philemon were turned into a linden and an oak respectively, when the time came for them to die. Its name was originally an adjective meaning "wood of the lind"-the older name for the tree. Its ultimate etymology is Proto-Germanic: *lenda "flexible." The surname comes from places in England called Lindon or Lyndon-OE: lin "flax" + dun "hill." Var: Lyndon. 18th C. In twentieth-century use, it is sometimes treated as the masculine form of Linda. Bearers: Lyndon B. Johnson (1908-73), the American President.

Lindor cc A name which first featured in medieval romances, often for lovelorn shepherds. It is probably a corruption of LEANDER. It has remained largely a name of fiction, appearing in Jean-Baptiste Niels's ballet *Les Romans* (1736), Egidio Duni's opera *Nina et Lindor* (1761) and Mozart's *Variation in E-flat Major on the romance "Je suis Lindor."* Lindor is best known today as a type of chocolate manufactured by Lindt & Sprüngli.

Lindsay Y c? English and Scottish surname, taken from the region of Lindsey in Lincolnshire. OE: Lindes (a word used for people from LINCOLN and Lincolnshire) + ON: eg "island." The Lindsay family

became established in Scotland, where they became Earls of Crawford. When it was taken up as a given name in the seventeenth century, it was mostly used as a male name, but in the twentieth, it was increasingly used for girls. Var: Lindsey, Lyndsey, Linsey, Lyndsay, Lynsey, Linsay, Linzi, Lynsay. Bearers: Lindsay Wagner (b. 1949), the American actress; Lindsey Davies (b. 1949), the British novelist.

Linen Y A fabric manufactured from flax since ancient times. OE: linen < Old Teutonic: *lino "flax."

Linford cc English surname, taken from Linford in Buckinghamshire. OE: hlyn "maple" + ford "ford." Bearers: Linford Christie (b. 1960), the British athlete.

Ling Y c? Another name for heather in English, from ON: lyng "heather." Ling is also a Chinese name. Mand: ling "sunshine"; ling "clever"; ling "antelope"; ling "damask"; ling "drops of rain"; ling "wagtail" and "lark." The Chinese surname Ling is either ling "sound of water flowing" or ling "encroach" and "soar."

Linnaeus c' Carl Linnaeus (1707-78) was a famous Swedish botanist, responsible for a large amount of plant classification; he is considered the father of modern taxonomy. His surname derives from Swedish: Lind "linden." 19th C.

Linnea Y Swedish name, the feminine of LINNAEUS. Linnaea is the name of a genus of flowering plants which Linnaeus named after himself, which includes *Linnaea borealis*, the delicate woodland twinflower. Used in the ESW since the early twentieth century. Var: Linnea. Dim: Nea.

Linnet 2 The Linnet is a type of finch known for its musical song, and it was often kept as a caged bird in the past. OF: linette < lin "flax"-so named because linseed was one of its chief foods. As a given name, Linnet has a slightly different origin-developing as an Anglicized form of the Welsh ELUNED, and thus a variant of LYNETTE. It was early identified with the bird, however. The name lingered in use before being revived in the nineteenth century. Var: Linette, Linnette. Bearers: Linnet Oldknow, a

character in Lucy M. Boston's *The Children of Green Knowe* series (1954-76).

Linus Gc In Greek mythology, Linus was the name of a son of Apollo by one of the Muses, but the sources don't agree which, and such were the tangles in the tales surrounding him that the Greek writer Pausanias even went so far to suggest there were actually three mythical bearers. What is clear is that his death was deeply mourned, and there was a dirge called "the Lay of Linus" which was sung at harvesttime, hinting that Linus may in origin be a God of harvestperhaps of the sacrificial-king dying-regenerative kind. The name is usually interpreted as Gr: *linos* "flax"; however, it is more likely that it arose from Gr: *ailinos* "dirge," which was even interpreted in ancient times as coming from *ai Linos*! In Ancient Greek *ai* and *aiai* were standard exclamations of grief The true origins of *ailinos* may not be Greek at all; it has been plausibly suggested that it derives from the Phoenician *ai lanu* "woe to us"-an autumnal lament for dying vegetation, possibly linked to the worship of Adonis, and there is evidence that the Greeks did indeed link Adonis and Linus. A character in the New Testament is largely responsible for the use of the name since the sixteenth century. Bearers: Linus Pauling (1901-94), the American chemist, writer, and peace activist; Linus van Pelt, a character in the comic strip *Peanuts* (1950-2000).

Lion cc The English word "lion" comes from OF: *leon* < L: *leo* "lion." Lions were once widespread across most of Africa, the Middle East, and India. They were also found in Greece and possibly in other parts of Southern Europe. Now they are found in the wild in only scattered pockets across Africa, and in one enclave in India. In England in the Middle Ages, the lion may as well have been a mythical beast, along with griffins and dragons, as very few reached her shores. Nevertheless, as a creature symbolizing royalty, strength, and courage, it was adopted as the badge of English kings and became firmly associated with England. 16th C-though some of this use is likely to have been as a variant of LEON.

Lionel Medieval diminutive of LEON, formed with the suffix *-el*. Bearers: Lionel of Antwerp, Duke of Clarence (1338-68), the son of King Edward III of England; Sir Lionel, one of the Knights of the Round Table, who

features in a late medieval ballad collected by Francis Child; Lionel Barrymore (1878-1954), the American actor; Lionel Snell (b. 1945), the British author on magick and philosophy-better known under his pen name Ramsey Dukes.

Lioness Y The female lion. In addition to all the attributes associated with the lion, the lioness is known for the protectiveness she shows towards her young, and is thus also a symbol of motherhood and protection, linked with the Great Mother. Lionesses are the ones who do most of the hunting in a pride. Lyonesse, a medieval form, is used of a character in the Arthurian Romances, and also features as the name of the mythical land of which Tristan was a prince, which later was said to have sunk beneath the waves. Var: Lionese, Linesse, Lyoness, Lionesse, and LYONORS. 19th C.

Lir c' An Irish sea God, whose name derives from CC: "liro- "sea" and "ocean." He seems to be a personification of the sea, and is father of the principal sea God in the Irish pantheon-Mannanan. In the famous Irish story of the children of Lir, he is a king who is robbed of his children through the machinations of his second wife Aoife, after she enlists a Druid to turn them into swans for nine hundred years. Late 20th C.

Lisa y Originally a pet-form of ELIZABETH, used particularly early in Italian and Welsh.'The Italian Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci is probably the most famous work of art in the world-named after Lisa del Giocondo (1479- 1542/c. 1551). Meanwhile, "Lisa Lan" (meaning "fair Lisa") is a traditional Welsh folk-song. Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. The word lisa has some interesting meanings in other languages too; in Russian, it means "fox"; it is the Basque word for "iron"; "relief" in Swedish; and in the African language Kiseri, it means "to look after grazing cattle." In Tagalog, however, lisa is the name given to the larvae of head-lice. Var: Leesa, LIZA.

Lisetta Y An Italian diminutive of ELIZABETH. It was used by Matthew Prior in Cloe and Lisetta (c. 1701), and was a favorite name in opera, appearing as a character in two works by Haydn-I/ Mondo delta Luna (1777) and La Vera Costanza (1779)-and in Rossini's La Gazzetta (1763). 18th C. Fr: Lisette-used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Var: Lysette, Lizette.

Lita Y Short form of (mostly Hispanic) names ending in -lita, such as Angelita, Carmelita, and Manuelita. The word lita means "iris" in Icelandic, "bitch" in Estonian, and "to rely on" in Swedish-lita pa mig means "trust me!" Bearers: Lita Grey (1908-95), the second wife of Charlie Chaplin, whose birth name was Lilita-an elaboration of LILY.

Litany Y Medieval Latin: litania and letania < Gr: litaneia "prayer" and "entreaty" < litanos "suppliant" < lite "supplication." The Greek was originally used of supplicating the Pagan Gods. Although "litany" has come to refer specifically to a set of formal and formulaic prayers of supplication, principally forming part of a church service, it can still be used of supplication in general. 20th C.

Litha Y A name used in some Pagan traditions since the mid-twentieth century or so for the festival of Midsummer. OE: lice "soft" and "gentle"-from which LITHE developed. The Venerable Bede, writing in 725 CE, listed the AngloSaxon names of the months. June roughly corresponded with "Early Litha" and July with "Late Litha." Although it might be expected that Litha as a given name would date only to the latter twentieth century, there are, oddly enough, some examples found earlier, which are probably pure coinages based on "lithe," rather than having anything at all to do with the Saxon month or the Pagan festival.

Lithe ? c In English, "lithe" originally meant "gentle," "meek," and "mild," but has long been used only in the sense of being "flexible," "pliant," and "supple." OE: Tide "soft" and gentle.-Me surname derives from OE: hlid "slope." 19th C. Var: Lithe.

Liv Y Most of Liv's use in the ESW is as a short form of OLIVIA. However, it is also a traditional Scandinavian girl's name, used mostly in Norway. ON: hlif "cover" and "protection"-especially that provided by a shield. The name is now identical to the Norwegian word for life, which derives from ON: lif. Used in the ESW since the early twentieth century. Bearers: Liv Tyler (b. 1977), the American actress.

Lively c? Y Lively's use as a given name dates to the seventeenth century. It is not entirely clear whether it was originally used as an adoption of the adjective or-what it appears to be by the nineteenth century-an adoption of

the rare surname. Although the Puritans adopted many words from the English language as given names, they tended to be names which embodied virtues the parents hoped their children would aspire to, rather than those which described them. Therefore, it seems more likely that the surname was the source until the late twentieth century, when a cheerful, positive adjective such as "lively" did start to appear. The surname comes from Lyveley, the name of a lost English village. OE: he fer "rushes" or Leofa (see Leaf) + leah.

Livia Y Although often treated as a shortened form of OLIVIA, Livia is an entirely separate name in its own right, being the feminine form of Livius (see Livy). It was borne by Livia Drusilla (58 BCE-29 CE), the wife of Emperor Augustus. History has much maligned her, largely because she was a powerful woman, and during most of the last two thousand years, such women have never been liked. Much of the popular modern opinion about her is based on her portrayal in Robert Graves's *I, Claudius* (1934)- which is not flattering. 17th C. Dim: Livilla.

Livy cc Y English form of Latin Livius, the name of a Roman gens, used in particular of the Roman historian Titus Livius (59 BCE-17 CE). It probably shares the same root as L: liveo "to be blue." 18th C.

Liyana Y Zulu: liyana "it is raining."

Liz, Lizzie Y Short and pet-forms of Elizabeth, dating to the eighteenth century and sometimes used independently. Elizabeth Bennett in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) is called Lizzie by her family. Var: Lizi, Lizzi, Lizzy.

Liza Y Originally a short form of ELIZA, itself short for ELIZABETH, Liza was taken up as an independent name in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Bearers: Liza Minnelli (b. 1946), the singer and actress.

Lizanne ? Combination of LIZ + ANN. Early 20th C.

Llawen c Welsh: llawen "merry" and "glad"-the name of an early Welsh saint. Late 20th C.

Llefelys e In Welsh mythology, Llefelys is a son of Beli Mawr and brother of Llud, King of Britain. He features in Cyfran Llydd a Llefelys in the Mabinogion. He was king of France with a reputation for wise counsel, and helped Llud to defeat the three plagues that were tormenting Britain. Probably W: llef "voice" + melys "honey-sweet." 20th C.

Lleision c~ Old Welsh name, often Anglicized as Leyshon, Layson, or Leyson. The derivation isn't certain; it may be from W: llais "voice." In its Anglicized forms, it was one of the few pure Welsh names which managed to cling on in usage by the skin of their teeth from the medieval period through the nineteenth century, when traditional Welsh names were revived and new ones coined. Ironically, this meant Leyshon became regarded as "old-fashioned," and it is used less in Wales now than it was in the nineteenth century. Var: Lleisian.

Lleu c~ Lleu is almost certainly the Welsh equivalent of the Irish LUGH, deriving from the Celtic LUGUS. Lleu is the son of Arianrhod, born when she stepped over the wand of Math to test her virginity. He was raised by Gwydion, who presented him to Arianrhod, but Arianrhod rejected him and refused to give him a name. Gwydion tricked her into bestowing one upon him by accident; when she saw him she exclaimed that the "bright one" had a "deft hand"-Lleu "Llaw Gyffes"-upon which Gwydion revealed that she had just named her son. Late 20th C.

Llew c~ Welsh: llew "lion." Originally a short form of LLYWELYN, but used independently since the late nineteenth century.

Llian Y A short form of GWENLLIAN, used independently since the late nineteenth century. Var: Lluan.

Llinor Y Welsh variant of ELEANOR, possibly inspired by LENORE, etc. 20th C. Var: Llynor.

Llinos y Welsh: llinos "linnet." Late 19th C.

Llio Y Pet-form of GWENLLIAN. The fifteenth-century Welsh poet Dafydd Nanmor sang poems to a girl called Llio. Revived early 20th C.

Llion c~ A mythical Welsh giant and king, said to have given his name to Caerleon. In fact, it is the other way around; Caerleon is from W: caer < L: castrum "(Roman) fortress" + legionum "of the Legions." "The small town-little more than a village today-was the site of one of the three legionary fortresses of Roman Britain. Var: Lleon. Late 19th C.

Lloegr c~ 2 In Modern Welsh, Lloegr is usually translated as "England." However, it has nothing to do with the English people and is almost certainly the old name for much of the area which became England, but which was originally just as Celtic as what is now called the "Celtic fringe." Logres and Loegria are Anglicized forms used for the name of King Arthur's realm. The etymology is very uncertain, but a clue may lie in its strong resemblance to W: lloer "moon." This derives from CC: *lugrf "moon" and is closely related to LUGUS, opening the way to the intriguing possibility that Lloegr is a combination of Lugus and CC: *aro "ploughed land," giving it the meaning "the ploughed land of Lugus." "Lloegr" with its gentle, rolling hills and fertile plains is noticeably more arable than Wales even today-and this was just as true in ancient times.

Lloer y Welsh: lloer "moon."

Llorien c~ Old Welsh name, possibly CC: *lugrf "moon"+ *geno- "born." It was the name of a son of the sixth-century prince and poet, Llywarch Hen. Revived in the twentieth century.

Lloyd c A semi-Anglicized form of W: Llwyd "grey." `There is a character called Llwyd in the Mabinogion, but historically it was a byname, which gave rise to a surname, and it wasn't used as a true given name until the sixteenth or seventeenth century, when surnames started to come into use. Used generally in the ESW since the late nineteenth century.

Lludd cc According to the Mabinogion, Lludd was a son of Beli Mawr and brother of Llefelys. He appears as Lud in Geoffrey of Monmouth's works-and is still remembered in London today in the name Ludgate. His epithet was Llaw Eiriant-"silver hand"-and he is the Welsh parallel of the Irish Nuada Airgetlam. Another form of Lludd is NUDD, and ultimately, it derives from NODENS. Late 20th C.

Llyn c Y Welsh: llyn "lake" and "loch." 20th C.

L1yr c Welsh cognate of LIR and LEAR. Early 20th C.

Llywarch 6~ Traditional Welsh name-llyw "leader" + march "horse."
Bearers: Llywarch Hen, a legendary sixth-century Welsh prince and poet. It survived in use until the fourteenth century, and was revived in the nineteenth.

Llywela Y Modern feminine form of LLYWELYN. Anglicized as Lewella. Late 19th C. Var: Llewela.

Llywelyn c~ Llywelyn is one of a handful of Welsh names which has been in continual use since the tenth century. W: llyw "leader," llew "lion" or LLEU + eilyn "like ness." Mere is an outside chance that it originated as a combination of LUGUS and BELINUS and dates to the Brythonic period, when it would have become *Lugobelinus. Although this is an undeniably alluring etymology, the fact that Llywelyn only appears in the tenth century counts against it, not to mention that it doesn't truly work linguistically; the "b" would almost certainly have become "f" and the name would have become *Lleweelin-close, but close enough? Probably not. Llywelyn was popular among Welsh princes in the early Middle Ages. Var: Llewelyn, Llewellyn, FLUELLEN. Dim: LLEW, Llelo, LYN. Bearers: Llywelyn the Great (c. 1173-124), Prince of Gwynedd and de facto ruler of the whole of Wales; Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (c. 1223-82), the last crowned prince of an independent Wales; Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee (b. 1953), the British Sufi mystic and writer.

Lobelia 2 A genus of flowering plants, named after the sixteenth-/seventeenth-century botanist Matthias de Lobel. 19th C. Bearers: Lobelia Sackville-Baggins, a troublesome relation of Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*.

Loch a' Scots Gaelic: loch "lake," equivalent of Irish lough. The surname is from the same source. 19th C.

Locheia Y Greek: lokheia "childbirth" and "childbed." Epithet of Artemis as a Goddess of childbirth.

Lock c~ English surname. In part, OE: locc "lock of hair," arising as a nickname for someone with fine or curly hair, and in part loca "enclosure." 17th C. Var: Locke. Some usage over the centuries may have been in honor of the English Enlightenment philosopher John Locke (1632-1704).

Locrinus c~ A legendary king of Britain, recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth. He was said to be the son of Brutus the Trojan, the founder of the line of British kings. From W: LLOEGR. Almost certainly, Monmouth created him as the embodiment of Lloegr. His brother was Kamber, a name derived from W: Cymru "Wales." Var: Locrin.

Lodan cc An Irish God, whose full name is Lodan Lucharglan, which is essentially a corruption of Nuada Airgetlam-and thus a variant of LLUDD and NODENS. Lodan appears in the medieval Metrical Dindsenchas as the father of Sinann or Sinend-the Goddess of the River Shannon. In Cornish legend, the Irish father of St. Columb was also called Lodan, and he may be one and the same with Lot of Arthurian Romance-further reinforcing the link with Lludd and Nodens.

Lodestar c~ The name given to a star that shows the way in particular, Polaris. OE: lad "way" and "journey" + "star."

Logan c~ Y Irish surname, deriving from any of the places called Logan. Jr Ga: log "hollow" + dim. suffix -an. 19th C. Logan 3 is the principal character in William F. Nolan's Logan's Run (1967).

Logi cc In Norse mythology, Logi was a handsome king of a land north of Norway. A descendant of giants, his name became Halogi-"tall Logi"-the legendary source of the modern Halogaland region of Norway. ON: logi "flame" and "blaze." His daughters were Eisa and Eimyrja, names both meaning "embers," and his wife's name Glod probably means "red-hot embers"-all suggestive that Logi is a personification and deity of fire. 20th C.

Lohengrin c~ One of the knights of Arthurian legend, particularly in the German cycles. He first appears as the son of Parzifal (Percival) in Wolfram von Eschenbach's thirteenth-century Parzifal, although in this work his name is written Loherangrin. The name is probably a much mangled

version of LOCRINUS. Lohengrin (1850) is an opera version by Richard Wagner.

Lois Y A New Testament name. It may derive from Gr: *Idion* "more desirable," or be a pet-form of one of the many Greek names containing APOLLO. 16th C. Bearers: Lois Lane, a character in the Superman universe.

Lokelani Y Hawaiian name-loke "rose" (which derives from the English) + lani "sky" and "heaven."

Loki c? The Norse trickster God, father of Hel, Fenrir, and the world serpent. He is a shape-shifter, often transforming into a salmon or a mare. The etymology is uncertain; some derive it from ON: *lǫzika* "close," but more tempting is to take it further back to PIE: **lewko-* "bright" and "shining," which may make his name cognate with LUGUS. Intriguingly, Lugus is often considered the Celtic version of Odin, and it has been suggested that Loki is in fact an aspect of Odin too. 20th C.

Lola Y Spanish pet-form of DOLORES, Lola was made well known in the ESW by the Irish-born actress Lola Montez (1821-61)-whose birth name was Eliza Gilbert-mistress of King Ludwig of Bavaria, and it has been used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. The word Zola has a number of meanings in other languages; in Spanish it is used colloquially to mean "little girl," while in more than one Filipino language it means "grandmother," and in a number of African ones it has the sense of "to see" and "to examine." In Serbian it means "a flirt" and "hussy." Dim: Lolita. Bearers: Lola Lola, a character in *The Blue Angel* (1930); Dolores "Lolita" Haze, the title character of Vladimir Nabokov's novel *Lolita* (1955).

Lolli 2 Romani: lollo "red" < Hindi: lala "red."

Lollia Y The feminine form of Lollius, the name of a Roman gens. Lollia Paulina (d. 49 CE) was briefly the wife of Emperor Caligula. In 49 CE she was charged with sorcery, all her property was confiscated, and she was exiled without trial. Once in exile, she was forced to commit suicide. Lollius possibly derives from L: *lolium* "darnel." 19th C.

Lolly Y A pet-form of names such as LAURA and LOUISE, also associated with the English word "lolly," which arose in the nineteenth century as a shortened form of the late eighteenth-century "lollipop," the origin of which is unknown. Found in independent use since the nineteenth century. Lollipop has also been used.

Lona 2 How Lona came into use in the nineteenth century is not entirely clear. There is a Danish name Lone, short for Magdalene, the Danish form of MADELINE, but the most likely reason is that it emerged simply as a variant of LENA, etc., under the influence of other names ending in -ona. These included Leona, Nona, Ona, Dona, Iona, Mona, and Frona, which, while sounding like a list of Tolkienian Dwarf-women, were all in use in America in 1880.

Lonan c Old Irish name-/on "blackbird" + dim. suffix -an. It was borne by the father of the ninth-century CE Irish poet Flann mac Lonain.

London Y cc London has been used as a given name since the eighteenth century and possibly earlier, though its initial use and most of its subsequent use in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has been as an adoption of the surname which derives, unsurprisingly, from the city-the capital of England. Its origins are, however much disputed. The earliest recorded form is Londinium, which is the name the Romans gave it. It was traditionally linked to LUD-i.e. LLUDD-and thus NODENS. The current most accepted etymology is that it represents a Latinized form of a hypothetical Celtic *Londinion with a meaning of "place belonging to a man called Londinos." However, one variant of Lludd is LODAN, which is strikingly similar to Londinos; and it should be borne in mind that an intrusive "n" is not an uncommon linguistic phenomenon. The same thing happens at Londesborough in Yorkshire, recorded as Lodenesturg in 1066, explained as meaning "stronghold of a man called Lothinn," with Lothinn said to be a name of Scandinavian origin (albeit one which also bears more than a passing resemblance to Lodan). There is no real reason, therefore except perhaps a desire by some to distance the capital of England from the name of a Pagan deity-for doubting the traditional etymology.

Lonicera Y Modern botanical name for "honeysuckle." It is a Latinized form of the surname of the German botanist Adam Lonicer (1528-86). The

origin of Lonicer isn't entirely clear; it now tends to occur as Loniker or Lonicker and may be a variant of Launiger, in which case it probably derives from Ger: launig "humorous." 20th C.

Lonnie c~ Originally a pet-form of ALONZO, Lonnie has been used independently since the nineteenth century. Var: Lonny. Dim: LON. Bearers: Lon Milo DuQuette (b. 1948), the American occultist and author.

Lono c~ The name of a Hawaiian fertility God, also associated with music and rainfall. Haw: lono "news" and "remembrance." It is also borne by a star.

Lorcan Anglicized form of Lorcan, a traditional Irish name-Ol: lorcc "fierce" + dim. suffix -dn. It was rendered into English by Lawrence in the past. It was borne by two kings of Leinster and was the Irish Gaelic name of St. Laurence O'Toole (1128-1225)-Lorcan Ua Tuathail. Bearers: Lorcan O Muireadais (1883-1941), the Irish language activist, whose birth name was Laurence Murray; Peter Seamus Lorcan O'Toole (b. 1932), the Irish actor.

Lord cc Lord's use is two-fold; the adoption of a surname, and the adoption of the title. The word derives from OE: hlaford "loaf-guardian." It has been used to mean "one with dominion over others," i.e. "master" or "ruler" since at least the ninth century, and as a synonym for the Judeo-Christian God since at least the early eleventh century. To modern Pagans, "the Lord" is also used as a synonym for "the God," especially by those who are not polytheists, or when the masculine aspect of the Divine is being emphasized (usually hand in hand with the feminine-i.e. the Lady). Date of use is difficult to pin down, because titles were sometimes included in birth records even into the twentieth century, but it was certainly in use by the nineteenth.

Lore Y e Lore is found in the Middle Ages as a form of LAURA. In Germany, it developed as a short form of names such as Eleanore-the German form of ELEANOR-and LEONORE. The word "lore" is applied to the body of traditional facts, anecdotes, and beliefs which relate to any given subject, such as "fairy lore." Since the nineteenth century, it has become so associated with the study of folk beliefs, myths, legends, and

customs that "folk" and "lore" have fused into a word in its own right. The word derives from the Old English *lar* and is connected with the verb "to learn"; its original meaning was in fact "teaching" or "education."

Loredana Y Italian name, which made its first appearance in the early twentieth century in *L'amore de Loredana* (1908) by Luciano Zuccoli. It is believed Zuccoli based the name on the Italian surname Loredan, borne by a noble family of Venice to which three doges belonged. Loredan derives from L: *lauretum* "laurel grove."

Lorelei 2 The Lorelei is a rock on a bend of the River Rhine in Germany, which is considered particularly treacherous. It has long been associated with a female, siren-like nymph or Goddess who is said to lure sailors to their deaths. The etymology isn't clear. The second element is from a Celtic root meaning "rock" while the first might be from Old German words meaning "to whisper," "to lure" or "to watch out." 19th C. Var: Loreley. Bearers: Lorelei Lee, a character in Anita Loos's *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1925), who was immortalized by Marilyn Monroe in the 1953 film version.

Lorelle Y Either a combination of the Lor- from names such as Loretta with ELLE, or simply a respelling of LAUREL. It may possibly have been inspired by LORELEI. 19th C.

Lorena Y Latinate elaboration of LAUREEN, which emerged in the nineteenth century. Var: Loreena. Bearers: Loreena McKennitt (b. 1957), the Canadian musician; Ella Lorena, Scarlett O'Hara's daughter with Frank Kennedy in *Gone with the Wind*.

Lorenzo c~ Italian form of LAWRENCE, used by Shakespeare in *Merchant of Venice*. 17th C.

Loreto Y Roman Catholic name deriving from Loreto in Italy, which boasted the house of the Virgin Mary, said to have been carried there from Palestine by angels. It was enshrined in the Basilica della Casa Santa and became a place of pilgrimage, with Mary acquiring another title "Our Lady of Loreto"-hence the adoption as a given name. The town of Loreto derives its name from L: *lauretum* "laurel grove."

Loretta 2 Medieval diminutive of LAURA. The American actress Loretta Young (1913-2000)-whose real name was Gretchen-played a large part in promoting it in the 1930s and '40s. Var: Lauretta; Lauret, Lorret, Lawrett (hist). Bearers: Lauretta, a character in Boccaccio's Decameron.

Lorin ? Kurdish name-lorin "lullaby."

Lorinda Y For all intents and purposes, Lorinda is a blend of names beginning with Lor- (such as Loretta) with the suffix -inda inspired by names like Linda and Belinda. 19th C.

Loris Y c~ Loris was originally an Italian name, a diminutive of LORENZO. Its take-up as a female name may simply have been because of the name's similarity to other girls' names beginning with Lor- (such as Lora) and ending with -is, (such as Doris). The Swedish-born American entrepreneur and businessman Ivar Kreuger (known as the "Match King") had a yacht called Loris on which he entertained Hollywood stars such as Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford in the 1920s. A loris (sometimes called a slow loris) is also a type of arboreal primate native to India, Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

Lorna Y Feminine form of LORNE. Its use is principally due to R.D. Blackmore's novel Lorna Doone (1869). Bearers: Lorna Luft (b. 1952), the actress and singer, daughter of Judy Garland.

Lorne c? An ancient district of Argyll in Scotland. The Marquisate of Lorne (created in 1701) is a courtesy title borne by the eldest son of the Dukes of Argyll, who are also chiefs of Clan Campbell. Traditionally, Lorne is believed to derive its name from Loarn, the name borne by a legendary sixth-century king of Dal Riata-CC: *loverno- "fox." The Modern Gaelic name of the district is, however, Latharn, which bears a striking resemblance to the Northern Irish Latharna (Larne), said to derive from LATHAR. It is quite possible the two share the same origin, particularly given the fact that Larne and Lorne face each other across the Celtic Sea, and that the figure Loarn-like Lathar-was almost certainly a later invention to explain the region's name, when the real origin had been forgotten. Lorne's real source, like Larne's, may well be LATIARAN. 18th C. From the late nineteenth century, it was used in Canada in honor of the John

Campbell, 9th Duke of Argyll (1845-1914), who was Governor General of Canada from 1878-83 while Marquess of Lorne. Var: Latharn. Bearers: Lorne Greene (1915-87), the Canadian-born actor.

Lorraine Y c? Lorraine's use as a given name dates to at least the eighteenth century, and in its early use it was almost certainly simply a transferred use of the surname meaning "from Lorraine," a region of France. In this period, it occurs more as a male name than a female one-and as a middle name as much as, if not more than, a first. Other variants of the surname are also encountered, such as Loraine, Lor rain, and Lorain, as well as LAREINE and LAURINE. Its more widespread take-up in the latter nineteenth century may have been suggested by the enormous growth in popularity of Florence as a girl's name.'The province of Lorraine itself derives from the name of the short-lived ninthcentury kingdom of Lotharingia, which took its name from LOTHAIR. Dim: Lorrie, Lori. Bearers: Lorraine Hansberry (1930-65), the American playwright.

Lot g Lot is originally a biblical name, deriving from Heb: lut "to envelop" and "wrap closely." Lot was the man whose wife was turned to a pillar of salt when she glanced back at Sodom. Usually held up as a model of virtue, it should be remembered that he offered his daughter to be raped in place of visiting angels-which may challenge some people's ideas of what "virtue" means (the story of course also shows Yahweh at his loving and compassionate best).The story has always been well known, and it is unsurprising that when Geoffrey of Monmouth was writing *Historia Regum Britanniae* (c. 1136), he used the familiar Lot to render the Celtic name of the King of Lothian.'This had earlier been recorded as Leudonus-with Lothian called Leudonia. In early Welsh texts, his name also appears as Lewdwn, Llewdown, and Lluydauc. Some have tried to identify Lot with LLEU, but this is unlikely. A much more likely association-and origin-is with LLUDD; a late form of LLUDD found in Irish texts is LODAN, which is strikingly similar to the Welsh forms of Leudonus. In Arthurian legend, Lot is the King of Orkney and father of Sir Gawain. 16th C.

Loth Gc Old Breton name in use in Brittany in the Middle Ages, which almost certainly came from LLUDD. It sometimes crops up in medieval Arthurian Romance as a variant of LOT.

Lothair Gc Old German name-hlut "loud" and "renowned" + hari "army" The Old German form was Chlodochar, and another medieval version is Clotaire. It was borne by a ninth-century ruler of Lorraine, who gave his name to the province. LUTHER also evolved from it. Var: Lothaire. Ger: Lothar, Sp: Lothario-this features in Cervantes's Don Quixote, and was later used by Nicholas Rowe in his play The Fair Penitent (1703), in which Lothario seduces and betrays the heroine-hence its modern English use for a womanizer. Lothair itself was made familiar in the ESW through Benjamin Disraeli's novel Lothair (1870).

Lotta Y Short form of CHARLOTTE, used in the ESW and Scandinavia. German Lotte is also found. In Germany, this is also used in combinations, such as Lottelore (Lotte + LORE) and Lieselotte (LIESE + Lotte)-var: Liselotte. 19th C.

Lotus 2 cc The English name of Nelumbo nucifera, which is a flower (resembling a water-lily) sacred in Hinduism and Buddhism. In Hinduism, it is particularly associated with Lakshmi and Vishnu, who bears the epithet Padmanabha- "lotus-navel." It principally epitomizes purity and grace in all senses, flowering as it does above muddy waters. The expanding petals are said to symbolize the spiritual growth of the soul. Gr: ldtos "lotus." In Ancient Greece, the lotus was at first just a legendary plant-although some believe it was the jujube. Its fruit was eaten by the mythical "Lotus-eaters" and was said to cause a state of dreamy forgetfulness. In historic times, it first became the name of the Egyptian water-lily Nymphaea lotus, being used of the Nelumbo only in the midnineteenth century. The English surname Lotus is probably a variant of Lotts, which may be from LOTH, but is more likely from the medieval girl's name Lota, a short form of various medieval names ending in -Iota. 19th C.

Loucetius c~ Celtic God identified by the Romans with Mars. CC: *lowko- "bright" and "light." Most sites associated with him are thermal springs (one inscription was found at Bath), hinting that he is a God of healing. Var: Leucetius.

Louis c~ The origins of Louis lie with Old German Chlodovech-hlut "loud" and "renowned" + wic "battle" or a word cognate with OE: wiga "warrior." It was borne by the founder of the Merovingian Dynasty of Frankish kings,

better known by the later version of the name-CLOVISfrom which Louis finally emerged, becoming one of the most popular of all French names. It was introduced into Britain by the Normans, becoming common in medieval times in as LEWIS. When Georg Ludwig, King of Hanover became King George of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1714, Louis was used to render Ludwig, and Louis has been used in the ESW ever since. In Ireland, Louis has been used to render Lughaidh. Var: Louie, Lewey. Dim: Lou. Hun: Lajos, Cat: Lluís, Dut: Lodewijk, Provencal: Loïc, Scand: Ludvig, Ger: Ludwig; Lutz (dim), Pol: Ludwik, Haw: Lui, It: Luigi, Ludovico, Sp: Luis, Port: Luis, Ru: Lyudovik. Bearers: Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94), the British writer; Louis Armstrong (1901-71), the American musician; Louis Leakey (1903-72), the British paleoanthropologist.

Louisa Y Feminine form of LOUIS, used since the seventeenth century. Cat: Lluís, Fr: LOUISE, Scand: Lovisa, Lovise, It: Ludovica, Luigia, Luigina, Sp: Luisa, Port: Luisa, Ger: Luise. Bearers: Louisa Maria Teresa Stuart (1692-1712), daughter of the dethroned King James II; Louisa May Alcott (1832-88), the American novelist.

Louise 2 French form of LOUISA and feminine of LOUIS. Louise de Kerouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth (1649-1734), was a mistress of King Charles II who made the name familiar in seventeenth-century England, though it wasn't until the nineteenth century before Louise came into general usage in the ESW. Dim: Lou, LULU, LOLLY. Bearers: Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, Duchess of Argyll (1848-1939), a daughter of Queen Victoria-in whose honor the Canadian province of Alberta received its name; Louise Bogan (1897-1970), the American poet; Louise Brooks (1906-85), the American actress; Lady Louise Windsor (b. 2003), granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II.

Lourdes Y Lourdes was taken up as a given name by Roman Catholics in the late nineteenth century after the small French town became a centre for pilgrimage. This followed the alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary to a young girl, Marie-Bernadette Soubirous, later canonized as St. Bernadette. The etymology of the town itself is very obscure, possibly unknown and unknowable. The only sensible suggestion is a derivation from L: luridus

"pale yellow," "wan," and "ghastly." It may have been the cognomen of a Roman landowner, which became the name of his estate-*Lurida. This would fit fairly well with some of the earliest forms of the town's name-Lorda and Lorde.'The American singer Madonna gave the name to her daughter, born in 1996.

Lovage 2 cc Lovage-also known as love parsley-is a herb used since ancient times in cooking and herbal medicine. An infusion can be drunk to aid digestion or used as an antiseptic for wounds. Magically it is used for cleansing and in love-related magic. Anglo-Norman: lovache and luvasche < Late L: levisticum < L: ligusticum "lovage" < Gr: ligus "Ligurian." Liguria was a part of southern Gaul, home now to Genoa, Piedmont, and Savoy, which quite possibly derived its name from LUGUS. "Lovage" is also an obsolete English word meaning "praise" and "honor," probably deriving from LOVE + -age.

Love 2 The concept of "love" is an extremely important one in many spiritual paths. The expression "Perfect Love, Perfect Trust" features in Wiccan liturgy, and love is at the centre of the Druid's Prayer. An emphasis on love and peace is considered by many-non-Christians and Christians alike-to have been the most important teaching of Jesus; Peter Cayce in What Did Jesus Really Say-How Christianity Went Astray (2005) argues persuasively that this was closely linked to the Eastern doctrine of karma. Even stripped of all religious and emotional connotations, love-in all its forms, from sexual (which some religions through their male-dominated control-freakery have decided to class as a "sin," to be tolerated only within closely defined parameters) to platonic and familial-plays a vital part in the survival of the species, making it fundamental, regardless of beliefs. Love as a name actually dates to Anglo-Saxon times, when OE: Lufu "love" was used as a girl's name, and a masculine form Lufa also existed. It survived the Norman Conquest, becoming Love in the Middle Ages. In the sixteenth century, it was reembraced by the Puritans and the adoption of the surname boosted its use further, ensuring its survival into the twentieth century, when the "Hippie Movement" of the 1960s rejuvenated it again. Modern takes include "I love" and "the love" spelled backwards-Evoli and Evoleht; the variant Evolet featured in the film 10,000 BC (2008).

Loveday 2 c? Loveday was bestowed as a name in the Middle Ages upon children born on a "loveday," i.e. a day when those in dispute or outright enmity met in an attempt to settle their differences. By the seventeenth century it was largely confined to Cornwall, and used only for girls. It survived there until the twentieth century, since when it has also reappeared elsewhere. Var: Lowdy.

Lovejoy c' ? English surname, meaning simply "love joy." 17th C. In Britain, it is probably terminally associated with the television series Lovejoy (1986-94), about the adventures of a maverick antiques dealer, based on a series of books by Jonathan Nash.

Lovell c? Y English surname. OF: lovel "wolf-cub" < L: lupus "wolf." In the thirteenth century, Lovel was in use for a time as a first name and a byname. 17th C. Var: Lowell.

Lovely ? The English adjective "lovely" has been used as a given name since at least the nineteenth century.

Lovewell c? y English surname, meaning "love well." Used from the seventeenth century, it is possible that some of its early use is an adoption of the plain English "love well" by Puritans.

Lovinda Y A nineteenth-century creation, combining LOVE + -inda. 19th C. Lovilda is a similar creation, combining "love" with -ilda.

Lowena Y Cornish: lowena "joy," cognate with the Welsh LLAWEN. 20th C. Closely related Cornish Lowen means "joyful," "happy," and "glad" and is also used as a name.

Lowender cc Y Cornish: lowender "mirth."

Lowri 2 Welsh form of LAURA, used in Wales since the Middle Ages. Var: LOWRY.

Lowry e Y As a male name, Lowry is the English form of the Irish Gaelic surname O Labhraidh "descendant of Labhraidh." Labhraidh-a name or byname (the latter more likely) meaning "spokesperson" < labhair "to

speak." 19th C. Var: LAURIE, Lavery.'The female name is an old spelling of LOWRI.'The name is most associated with the English artist L.S. Lowry (1887-1976), famous for his "matchstick men."

Lowther C? A river in Cumbria, which gave its name to a village, which gave its name to a surname, which was taken up as a given name as early as the seventeenth century. The name of the river is often said to derive from ON: lauor "foamy" + a "river." However, it is generally acknowledged that its roots may be Celtic, though what precisely is left unspecified. The Breton name Loth and the related Lothian are noticeably similar, which suggests that behind the Lowther we may actually find LLUDD, his name here perhaps combined with that Old Norse d, giving it the meaning "Lludd's river."

Loxias c Epithet of Apollo. Gr: loxias "the ambiguous," "the oblique," and "the obscure" < loxos "slanting" or "aslant" and "ecliptic." It is often taken to be a reference to the cryptic prophecies delivered by his oracles, most notably at Delphi. However, it can also be interpreted as a reference to the fact the sun-identified with Apollo-traverses the ecliptic obliquely.

Loxley c? English surname-or the place from which it derived. Its use is mostly due to its associations with Robin Hood, who has been associated with the village of Loxley in Sheffield since at least the fifteenth century. Generally considered to be from OE: Locc-said to be a personal name or byname meaning "lock (of hair)" + leak. It is not beyond the realms of possibility, however, that the first element is actually from LUGUS, and that the leak in this case was a wood associated with a sacred grove-which, given the Robin Hood connection, makes interesting food for thought. Var: Locksley.

Lua Y A Roman Goddess who expiated blood shed in battle. L: luo "to set free." Not a great deal further is known about her, except Roman soldiers offered captured weapons to her and she is also known as Lua Mater as well as Lua Saturni-"Saturn's Lua." In Portuguese and Galician, lua means "moon," while in the Tanzanian languages of Doe and Kwere, it means "flower." In Hawaiian, however, it means "two," "pit," and "toilet," while in the Roviana language of the Solomon Islands, it means "vomit."The acronym LUA stands for "Last Universal Ancestor," a name given to the

most recent living organism from which all life has evolved. Lua occurs as a given name in the ESW from the nineteenth century-why is not entirely clear. It seems unlikely to be an adoption of the name of the Goddess, who is pretty obscure and a bit gruesome. It was probably down to the fact that names beginning in Lu- were quite trendy at the time in America such as Lula, Lulu, Luella, and Lue (not to mention Lucy, Lucille, and Lucinda), so it may just have been a coinage.

Luag cc Gaelic name, particularly associated with the Isle of Man. The etymology isn't entirely clear; it may be a variant of LUGH or LUGH AIDH. Moluag "my Luag" is borne by a sixth-century saint who is also known as Lugaidh-a form of Lughaidh. Var: Liag.

Luana Y Combination of Lu- (from the various names current in late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century America which began with the element, such as Luella and Lula) + the suffix -ana. It was used for the name of a Polynesian princess in *Bird of Paradise* (1932). It is possible that the inspiration for this was Haw: luana "to be at leisure" and "to enjoy pleasant surroundings," "to live at comfort and ease," and "to be content"-which certainly sums up most people's ideas of life in a tropical paradise. The name has been most popular in Italy, where *Bird of Paradise* was released as *Luana, La Virgine Sacra*. Luana is also the name of a figure in Romanian mythology. Var: Luanne.

Lubna Y Arabic name-lubna "storax tree." Lubna features in the seventh-century romance *Qays wa Lubna* "Qays and Lubna."

Luca c~ Y Luca the boy's name is the Italian form of LUKE, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century, but popularized by Suzanne Vega's *Luka* (1987) in the late twentieth century. Luka-the Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and Slovenian form of Luke-is treated as a variant. As a girl's name, Luca is the Hungarian form of LUCY.

Lucan cc English form of Lucanus the name by which the Roman poet Marcus Annaeus Lucanus (39-65 CE) is usually known. His name meant "from Lucania"; Lucania was the name given by the Romans to an area of Southern Italy, almost certainly deriving from PIE: *lewko- "bright" and "shining"-an apt name for such a hot region. Most of its principal cities

started out as Greek colonies. Lucan is also a place in Ireland. Its Gaelic name is Leamhcan-Ir Ga: leamhdn "elm" + perhaps ceann "headland" or "point." The surname Lucan derives from it, and it has been made famous by two notorious Earls of Lucan, the Third Earl of Lucan, who was responsible for the wholesale massacre that was the Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War, as well as callous mass evictions from his Irish lands during the Great Famine, and the Seventh, who vanished off the face of the Earth after the murder of his children's nanny in 1974. 19th C.

Lucas c~ Latin form of Greek Loukas < Loukanos itself from-or cognate with-Lucanus (see Lucan). It is also the source of LUKE. Lucas was used alongside Luke in the Middle Ages and was a popular name, as testified by the widespread nature of the surname taken directly from it. It is difficult to tell whether Luke or Lucas was the name actually in use, since Lucas was used in Latin records for both. It was reinforced, however, when surnames began to be adopted as given names. For some reason it has been a favorite name in television soaps-characters called Lucas have featured in the American Days of Our Lives, the British Eastenders and Hollyoaks, and the Australian Home and Away. Bearers: Lucas Cortez, a sorcerer in Kelley Armstrong's Women of the Otherworld series (2001-); Lucas "Luke" Eveshim is the principal character in Roald Dahl's The Witches (1983).

Lucasta Y Invented by Richard Lovelace. Used in his poems such as "To Lucasta, Going to the Warrens" (1649). Its exact source is unclear; theories include that it was derived from LUCAS (the suggestion being that this was the surname of his mistress) or LUCY; a woman called Lucy Sacheverell is often cited as the object of Lovelace's affections. It is always possible that he simply coined it from L: lux "light" + castas "pure," with or without reference to any Lucy or Miss Lucas. 19th C.

Lucetius cc Latin: lucetius "bringer of light." An epithet of Jupiter. Fem: Lucetia-an epithet of Juno.

Lucetta ? Italian diminutive of luce "light" meaning "small light." It was used by Shakespeare in Two Gentlemen of Verona-although Shakespeare may have coined it directly from L: lux "light." It pops up from time to time in other works of fiction over the ensuing centuries, such as Thomas

Killigrew's *Thomaso, or the Wanderer* (1654), Aphra Bennis *The Rover* (1677), and Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886). 19th C.

Lucia Y Feminine form of LUCIUS, the original Latin form of LUCY. It is found from the Middle Ages, though in most if not all cases, women whose names were recorded as Lucia in Latin records would have been called Lucy. Lucia returned in its full shining Latin glory from the seventeenth century. It has always been the Italian form of the name, as well as the Spanish, Portuguese, German, and Scandinavian. Some of Lucia's use in the ESW since the nineteenth century has been a direct adoption of the Italian, and is therefore pronounced the Italian way. The feast day of St. Lucia—a shadowy saint known only from medieval hagiographies—on December 13 is celebrated with pomp in many parts of Europe and is almost certainly a thinly disguised survival of a Pagan festival of light, typical of the time of year. Interestingly, in some parts of Europe, Lucia is believed to have been a Witch, and her day is associated with Witches. This is largely because by the time this feast was established in the Middle Ages, December 13 was the Winter Solstice—it ceased to be only after the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in the sixteenth century. In Slovakia, various precautions (such as eating garlic) were taken to protect against Witchcraft on St. Lucia's Day, and it was believed if you looked through the keyhole of the church door at midnight on St. Lucia's Day, you would see all the Witches in the village. Making a "St. Lucia's stool" was a tradition in more than one place in Central and Eastern Europe; the belief being that when the stool was stood upon, all Witches would be revealed.

Lucian (' Lucian is often treated as a diminutive of LUCIUS. In fact, it is more likely a diminutive of LUCAS, a subtle but important difference.' The two attestable figures of Antiquity who bore the name were both from Syria—Lucian, the second-century Pagan Roman satirist, and the late third-/early fourth-century bishop of Antioch. In both cases, their names were Latinized forms of Greek Loukianos "belonging to Lucas." It is possible, indeed, that the name has an entirely different source altogether and Loukianos represents only the Hellenized form.' That the name was early linked with Lucius is clear, however, from the hagiography surrounding the third-century St. Lucian of Beauvais, which is probably all the invention of an early medieval Latin-educated monk wanting to tell a

good story. Lucian's use in the Middle Ages is down to the saints, and it was taken up again in the sixteenth century with reference to the satirist. Fr: Lucien. Bearers Lucian Freud (1922-2011), the Germanborn British artist.

Luciana 2 The feminine form of LUCIAN, which features in Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors. 18th C. Bearers: Luciana, a principal character in Joseph Heller's Catch 22 (1961).

Lucida y Latin: lucidus "full of light," "clear," "bright," and "shining." 16th C.

Lucidity Y In English, "lucidity" originally meant "brightness" or "luminosity," but is now chiefly used to mean "clarity." L: luciditas "lucidity" < lucidus "bright" < lux "light." Late 20th C.

Lucifer c Latin: lucifer "light-bringing." Poetically, it was also used with the meaning "bringing safety." In Roman times, Lucifer was the name given to the Morning Star (i.e. the planet Venus) as the herald of the dawn, and in mythology it was the name of the son of the Goddess Aurora by Cephalus. Its association with the Judeo-Christian Satan comes from a passage in the Bible which calls an unspecified Babylonian king the "Morning Star" and says he has been "cast down to the Earth." This was interpreted as meaning that the Morning Star was a "fallen angel" and later applied to Satan. 19th C. Fem: Lucifera.

Lucilla Y Latin diminutive of LUCIA. There is also a third-century saint of the name who is responsible for the name's later use. Fr: Lucille. Bearers: Annia Aurelia Galeria Lucilla (148/150-182 CE), the daughter of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius and sister of Commodus, who featured in the American film Gladiator (2000); Lucille Ball (1911-89), the American actress and comedienne, best known for the sitcom I Love Lucy (1951-57).

Lucina 2 Roman Goddess of childbirth, who is identified with Juno. L: lucinus "light-bringing," "bringing to the light" < lux "light"; Nora lucina was a term used to mean "natal hour," i.e. the first hour after birth. 17th C.

Lucinda 2 A seventeenth-century elaboration of LUCY; it features in Cervantes's Don Quixote and the Jacobean tragicomedy The Knight of

Malta (c. 1616-19). Dim: Lucy, Cindy, Cindi, Sindy. Bearers: Lucinda Green (b. 1953), a British equestrian; Lucinda Leplastrier, a central character in Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda* (1988); Lucinda Spiderwick, a character in the *Spiderwick Chronicles* series (2003-04).

Lucius c? Roman praenomen, deriving from L: lux "light"; its exact meaning is "of light." It was one of the three commonest praenomina-the other two being Gaius and Marcus. Millions of little Roman Pagan boys bore the name during the days of Rome's Republic and Empire. Among them was Lucius Apuleius (c. 125-c. 180 CE), author of *The Golden Ass*, a bawdy, frivolous romantic comic novel in which the principal character-also Lucius-experiments with magic, ends up turned into an ass (donkey), and eventually restored to human form, is initiated into the Cult of Isis. 16th C. Bearers: Lucius Carey, 2nd Viscount Falkland (1610-43), the British politician and author; Lucius Malfoy, a wizard in the *Harry Potter* series.

Luck 5 Y Luck was first used in the Middle Ages as a medieval form of LUKE, giving rise to surnames such as Luck and Lockett. It reappeared in the eighteenth century, when at first it was probably the surname being used, though later, some may be "luck," a word which seems to have arrived in Britain in the fifteenth century from the Low Countries, as a shortened form of Dutch geluk "luck."

Lucretia y Lucretia was celebrated in Ancient Rome as an example of the ideal woman-she killed herself rather than live with dishonor, an act which led directly to the establishment of the Roman Republic. Feminine of LUCRETIUS. 16th C. Var: Lucrece (hist). Sp: Lucrecia, It: Lucrezia. Bearers: Lucretia Garfield (1832-1918), the wife of American President James A. Garfield; Lucrezia Borgia (1480- 1519), the notorious Italian princess. *The Rape of Lucrece* (1594) is a narrative poem by William Shakespeare.

Lucretius 5" A noble Roman gens, whose most famous member today is the Epicurean poet Titus Lucretius Carus (c. 99-c. 55 BCE), author of *De Rerum Natura* "On the Nature of Things," which begins with an invocation to Venus, celebrating her as the source of all life. The name is probably derived from L: lucrare "to gain" and "to acquire."

Lucy 2 The usual English form of LUCIA since the Middle Ages, when it is also found as Luce. Lucie occurs from the fourteenth century. Sc Ga: Liusaidh, W: Lleucu; Liwsi (mod), Hun: LUCA, Get, It, Port, Scand, Sp: Lucia, Port: Lucia, Fr: Lucie, Luce; Lucette (dim), Sp: Lucia; Lucita (dim), Cro, Slv: Lucija, Pol: Lucja. Bearers: Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942), the Canadian novelist; Lucy Pevensie, a central character in C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*; Lucy Warbeck, a Witch in Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* series (1983-). "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" (1967) is a Beatles song. Lucy Fysshier of Feering, Essex, was found guilty of Witchcraft in 1584-and hanged; Lucy Eltheridge, of rllhorpe-le-Soken, was found guilty of Witchcraft and hanged in 1601.

Ludmila Y Slavic name deriving from Slavic: lud "people" + mil "beloved," "dear," and "gracious." Borne by a tenthcentury saint, Ludmila is much used in Russia, Bulgaria, and the Ukraine, and is encountered in the ESW from the nineteenth century. Ru: Ludmilla, Lyudmila, Pol: Ludomila, Ludmila, Luuzmila.

Ludovick 5' Variant of Lewis, deriving from the Latin form Ludovicus. Late 16th C-mostly in Scotland. Var: Ludovic, Lodowick. Dim: Ludo. Bearers: Ludovic Kennedy (1919-2009), the British humanist, journalist, and author.

Luella Y A nineteenth-century American creation, blending Lou-a short form of LOUISE-with ELLA.

Lugh 5 The Irish God identified with the Celtic LUGUS and Welsh LLEU. In Irish myth, he is the son of Cian, and the only survivor of triplets born to Ethniu, daughter of the Formorian King Balor. Lugh features in a number of myths regarding the Tuatha De Danann, often presented as a trickster, like the Norse Loki, who might be his Norse cognate. In Irish tradition, the Milky Way is "Lugh's Chains," while rainbows are said to be Lugh's sling rod. He is said to have instigated the festival Lughnasadh-still called La Lunasa in Ireland today-on the cross-quarter day between the Summer Solstice and the Autumn Equinox in honor of his foster-mother Tailte. 20th C.

Lughaidh Gc Medieval Irish name derived from LUGH, Anglicized as Louis, Louie, and Lewey. It was borne by a number of legendary and historic Irish kings, the earliest placed in the ninth century BCE. Var: Lugaid, Lugaidh, Lui. Bearers: Lughaidh O Cleirigh (fl. 1603-16), the Irish poet and historian.

Lughnasadh Gc Y The Old Irish name for Lammas, by which the festival is often known in modern Pagan circles. Var: Lughnasa, Lunasa.

Lugus e The Celtic God almost certainly behind LUGH and LLEU. There is considerable debate about the etymology, and it has become fashionable to contest the nineteenth-century scholarship regarding its derivation from PIE: *lewko- "to shine." Numerous alternatives are put forward, such as a development from PIE: *leug- "blackness" or CC: *lug- "oath." However, when all is said and done, *lewko- is still possible and plausible, perhaps developing from a parallel PIE root *lewg- instead of directly from the traditional *lewko-. There are traces of the reverence of Lugus across Celtic Europe-and possibly Germanic Europe too if Lugus is the source, or cognate, of LOKI. Some depictions of Lugus hint at Lugus being a Triple God; he is sometimes presented with three faces, and other times with three phalluses. This is also supported by some Irish myths in which Lugh is said to have been one of triplets, and it has been suggested he is a Triple God composed of the deities Esus, Toutatis, and Taranis. 20th C.

Luis c~ Generally the Spanish form of LOUIS; however, it is also the Ogham name for the rowan, the month of which is January 21 to February 17.

Luiseach Y Now treated as the Irish Gaelic form of Lucy, Luiseach is the usual modern spelling of Luigsech, the name of an obscure saint who appears in the twelfth-century Martyrology of Gorman. It almost certainly derives directly from LUGH. Var: Luighseach.

Luitgard Y Old German name-leudi "people" + gard "protection."

Luke Gc Usual English form of LUCAS. The name ascribed to one of the writers of the four New Testament gospels. 12th C. Cat: Lluc, Fr, W: Luc, It: LUCA, Dut: Lucas, Jr Ga: Lucas, Cro, Ru, Serb, Slv: Luka, Hun:

Lukacs, Ger: Lukas. Bearers: Luke Kelly (1940-84), a founding member of Irish folk band 'The Dubliners; Luke Skywalker, one of the main characters in the American film Star Wars (1977) and subsequent films; Luke Smith is a central character in the British science-fiction series The Sarah Jane Adventures (2007-11).

Lullaby Y English "lullaby"-a song or tune used to send a child to sleep, composed of two interjections both formerly used for the purpose: "lulla" (from which the verb "lull" derives) and "bye" (as encountered in the nursery rhymes "Bye, Baby Bunting," and "Rock-a-bye, Baby," as well as "hushaby"). Early 20th C.

Lulu Y In the ESW, Lulu developed in the nineteenth century, mostly as a pet-form of LOUISE, and to a lesser extent also of LUCY. It was in independent use before the end of the century. Most use in Britain, however, post-dates the rise to fame in the early 1960s of Scottish pop-singer Lulu (b. 1948)-whose birth name is Marie McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie. Lulu is also an Arabic girl's name lulu "pearl"; a variant is Lulua < lulua "pearly." In Fijian, lulu means "owl," while in Tongan, it means "concussion." Var: Lula.

Luma Y The name of an evergreen shrub with delicate starry flowers and aromatic leaves. It originates from South America, and the name is its native name among the Mapuche of Chile. 20th C.

Lumi 2 Finnish name-lumi "snow."

Lumia Y Derived from Latin: lumen "light," "lumia" was coined in the twentieth century by the artist Thomas Wilfred for artwork created with light. 20th C.

Lumina Y Latin: lumina "lights" < lumen "light." 19th C.

Luminescence Y Luminescence is applied to anything with a luminescent quality. It is also used of a light or glow emitted by a luminescent object. L: lumen "light."

Luna Y Latin: luna "moon," personified as a Goddess and identified with Diana. 17th C. Bearers: Luna Lovegood, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Lunaria Y Latin name for "honesty" < LUNA-a reference to the round, silvery seed-pods. In the past Lunaria was also used for a fern called moonwort, which was believed to have magical qualities and was so named because of its crescent-shaped fronds. Var: Lunary-used as an alternative name for honesty since the fourteenth century.

Lunette Y French: lunette "little moon." In the past it was sometimes used to mean simply "a little moon" or "crescent moon"; now it tends to be applied to specific things, such as a half-moon-shaped window or space, often above a door. Its use as a given name may have been inspired by LYNETTE. 19th C. Var: Lunet.

Lunula Y Latin: lunula "little moon."The word is principally used today as the name of crescent-shaped neck ornaments in gold worn in the Early Bronze Age, particularly associated with Ireland.

Lupa 2 Latin: lupa "she-wolf." In Roman myth, it was a she-wolf who suckled Romulus and Remus as babies.'This led to the wolf becoming a symbol of Rome. Wolves were also associated with Artemis. For some reason, however, lupa in ancient times also meant "prostitute"; lupariae were brothels.20th C.

Lupercal Y Feminine form of LUPERCUS. It is the name of a Roman Goddess, wife of Faunus, who is identified with the she-wolf who suckled Romulus and Remus.

Lupercus cc A Roman deity whose festival-the Lupercalia-was celebrated in Rome on February 15 at the end of the festival of Juno Februa, which began on the thirteenth. For Pagan Romans, February was a time of purification, and there were a number of festivals and holy days with a purification theme. The Lupercalia also included an element of fertility rites-young men dressed in the skins of sacrificed goats struck young women with whips as a protection against infertility.'The Lupercalia remained a popular celebration even in the supposedly Christian fifth century, when the Church may have instigated the feast of St. Valentine on

the fourteenth to take over. However, all the notions of romantic love, with which the day is now associated, date from the Middle Ages at the earliest. Lupercus itself derives from L: lupus "wolf." The Romans identified him with both Faunus and Pan. The Lupercal was a grotto on the Palatine hill in Rome sacred to Lycaean Pan-the word "Lycaean" deriving from L: Lycaeus (Pan) < Gr: Lukaïos-a mountain in Arcadia sacred to Zeus and Pan.

Lupin ? Latin: lupinus "of a wolf," the lupin is a herbaceous plant well known for its spikes of colorful flowers in the summer, and symbolic of admiration. 19th C. Var: Lupine; Lupina Y.

Lupus c~ Latin: lupus "wolf." It was used as a byname in medieval times-an example being Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester (d. 1101). 19th C-often as a middle name for boys called Hugh. Sp: Lope, Fr: Loup.

Luscinia 2 Latin: luscinia "nightingale." An epithet of Minerva. 19th C.

Luster, Lustre Y e French: lustre < L: lustrō "to illuminate." The surname Luster is a variant of LESTER. 19th C.

Lute 2 The popular late medieval and early modern stringed instrument, much associated with minstrels and courtly love. Ar: al-ad "the lute"-literally "the stick." 20th C.

Luther cc German surname, deriving from LOTHAIR. It was famously borne by the German monk Martin Luther (1483-1546), who sparked the Protestant Reformation. As such, his name was later taken up by Protestants in his honor. Bearers: Martin Luther King (1929-68), the American civil rights activist.

Luthien y An Elvish princess in Tolkien's Lord of Rings, who features in stories and songs. Sindarin: hithien "enchantress" < lzitha- "to enchant," though it is speculated that Tolkien first developed it from the genuine OE: lufu "love" and the verb leofian "to be(come) dear." Luthien represents Tolkien's own wife Edith Tolkien (1889-1971), and it appears beneath her name on their headstone. It is tempting to suggest that the -ien suffix was inspired by the ending of their own surname. Late 20th C.

Lutin (~ A type of mischievous elf found in Normandy, akin to brownies. It is a corruption of Fr: netun, itself a contracted form of NEPTUNE. The lutin could transform into a fully equipped horse, dubbed in French le Cheval Bayard the name of Charlemagne's legendary horse-which could change size depending on how many of his sons were riding it. Lutins are usually blamed for knotting and tangling children's hair.

Luule 2 Estonian name-luule "poetry" and "poesy."

Luvenia Y American phonetic respelling of LAVINIA, which developed in the South in the nineteenth century.

Luz Y Spanish name-luz "light." L: Lux, from which it derives, is encountered as a male and female name from the nineteenth century.

Lycaon Gg Greek: lukaon "werewolf" More than one character in Greek myth bore it as a name, including a son of Priam of Troy, and a notorious king of Arcadia. The latter killed one of his fifty sons to feed to Zeus to see if the God could tell it was human flesh-he could, and as punishment, he slaughtered all the rest of Lycaon's sons and turned Lycaon into a werewolf

Lycea Y Feminine form of LYCEUS. Epithet of Artemis. Var: Lycaea.

Lyceus cc Epithet of Apollo. Gr: lukaaios "of a wolf." In Athens, a school which was held on the grounds of the gymnasium and public gardens associated with the shrine of Apollo Lyceus acquired the name Lyceum, which is still used today as a general term for an educational institution. Var: Lycaeus.

Lycias 6 An Ancient Greek name deriving from Gr: lukos "wolf," borne by a celebrated Athenian orator of the fourth century BCE. 17th C.

Lycius Gc Epithet of Apollo from Gr: Lukios "Lycian," i.e. from Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. Lycia is recorded in earlier Egyptian texts with the name Lukka or Luqqa of unknown meaning. The Greeks typically Hellenized the name to give it a semblance of a meaning in their own language, in this case with lukos "wolf." Lycius features as the name of the hero in John Keats's Lamia (1819). 19th C.

Lycus G~ Greek: lukos "wolf" In Greek, Lycus features frequently in Greek myth and history. Among its bearers was one of the Telchines (see Telchis), and a king of Thebes. Several rivers also bore the name.

Lyd cc A river in Devon, England. It is usually derived from OE: hlyde "noisy stream," but it is possible its medieval forms imply this because it is how the Saxons interpreted it. In reality, its roots may be Celtic, with perhaps LLUDD at the source. It has more than one interesting feature which may well have once been sites of Pagan worship, such as the "White Lady" waterfall and a series of whirlpools called "the Devil's Cauldron."

Lydia Y Greek: Ludios "of Lydia"-an ancient kingdom of Asia Minor, and later a Roman province. The name was ancient-the Akkadians called it Luddu-but the meaning is uncertain; it has tentatively been linked to PIE: *h₁lew₂dho "people", from which OG: leudi "people," L: liber "free" and Gr: eleutheros "free" all developed. The name features in poems by the Roman poet Horace, and was also borne by a character in the New Testament. 16th C. Bearers: Lydia Becker (1827-90), a British pioneer of the suffragette movement; Lydia Maria Child (1802-80), an American abolitionist and activist for the rights of both women and Native Americans; Lydia Bennett, a character in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). Fr: Lydie.

Lyev c~ Russian name-lyev "lion." Var: Lev.

Lyla Y Lyla is now generally considered to be a feminine form of LYLE, but evidence suggests that it actually arose in the latter half of the nineteenth century as a variant of LEILA, or as a pet-form of names such as ELIZA. "Lyla" (2005) was a number-one hit song on British charts by Oasis.

Lyle cc English surname. Fr: de lisle "of the island." In some cases it may have been taken from the French city of Lille. 17th C. Var: Lisle.

Lyn Y c Welsh form of LYNNE, it is also used as a short form of LLYWELYN, ELUNED, and LYNETTE.

Lynette 2 Medieval French form of ELUNED, used in Arthurian Romances. Other forms include Lynnette, LINNET, Linette, Linnette,

Lynet, and Lyonet.'The last suggests that people in medieval times might have thought the name derived from "lion"-perhaps explaining how she got teamed up with a sister called Lyonesse. She features in Malory's *Morte d Arthur* and in Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*, which led to Lynette's use as a given name from the late nineteenth century. Dim: LYN, LYNNE, NETTIE.

Lynne Y Lynne-and its variants Lynn and LYN-arose in the early twentieth century as short forms of LYNETTE. Lynn was also used as a male name in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, being an adoption of a surname. his derived from King's Lynn in Norfolk, England, a medieval market town. CC: *lindo- "liquid" and "lake." Bearers: Lynn Redgrave (1943-2010), the British actress.

Lynwen 2 Welsh: LYN + gwyn. Early 20th C.

Lynx e 2 A type of large wild cat, native to Europe and Asia. Gr: lugx "lynx." As solitary, nocturnal animals, they have become associated with secrecy, and thus secret knowledge and the arcane.'The lynx is also famous for its keen sight; in ancient times it was believed it could even see through solid objects. It was also believed its urine hardened into a precious stone called lyncurion, which is sometimes translated as "lynxstone" and was probably jacinth or tourmaline.'The constellation Lynx was introduced in the seventeenth century. Early 20th C.

Lyonors Y Lyonors appears in Malory's *Morte d Arthur* as the name of the daughter of Earl Sanam. Arthur had an affair with her, and she bore him a son called Borre. Tennyson decided to use the name in *Idylls of the King* as the name of the sister of Lynette in his version of *Gareth and Lynette*-in medieval versions this character is usually called Lyonesse (see Lioness).

Lyra Y Greek: lura "lyre."The name of a constellation also known as "the Lyre." It has been recognized as a constellation since at least the second century CE, when it was listed by Ptolemy, and represents the lyre of Orpheus. When Orpheus was killed by Bacchants, Zeus sent an eagle to retrieve the lyre and placed it in the sky. It is also known as King Arthur's Harp. 19th C. Bearers: Lyra Belacqua, the heroine of Philip Pullmans *His Dark Materials* (1995-2000). Var: Lyre.

Lyric Y c? In its earliest use, "lyric" meant "of a lyre" and was used of compositions designed to be sung with the accompaniment of a lyre. Later, it came to mean simply a poem-both for singing and simply reading-which usually expresses the writer's thoughts and feelings. Since the late nineteenth century, it has been used for the words of popular songs, often in the plural. Late 19th C.

Lys Y Lys is largely a variant spelling of LIZ, but is sometimes a short form of Lysette, a variant of LISETTA. It may have been influenced by FLEUR-DE-LYS, and in some cases, Lys may be a direct adoption of it, and pronounced "LEE," perhaps chosen as a variant of Lee or Leigh.

Lysander c~ A Spartan general of the fifth and early fourth centuries BCE. It was also used by Shakespeare in A Midsummer Night's Dream for the play's hero. Gr: lysis "releasing," "freeing," and "deliverance" + aner "man," thus "freeing men." 17th C. Bearers: Lysander Spooner (1808-87), the American abolitionist and political philosopher.

Lysandra 2 Feminine form of LYSANDER. It was used as a name in Ancient Greece, an example being a third-century BCE daughter of Ptolemy I of Egypt, and is now also the name of a genus of butterfly. 18th C.

Lysia Y Feminine form of LYSIUS. An epithet of both Artemis and Demeter. 17th C.

Lysianassa Y A name borne by more than one character in Greek mythology, including one of the Nereids, and a daughter of King Priam of Troy. The name derives from the Greek lysis "releasing," "freeing," and "deliverance," and anassa "queen." The French name Lysiane may be a truncated form and has seen use in the ESW since the twentieth century; it also spelled Lysianne.

Lysias a Borne by more than one figure in Antiquity, including a fifth-/fourth-century BCE orator, Lysias arose as a short form of names beginning with Gr: lysis "releasing," "freeing," and "deliverance," such as LYSIMACHUS. 17th C.

Lysimachus cc' Greek: lysis "releasing," "freeing," and "deliverance" + makhe "battle." A name borne by several Ancient Greeks of note, most famously one of the generals of Alexander the Great who later became king of Macedon, Thrace, and Asia Minor. It also occurs in Shakespeare's Pericles, Prince of Tyre.

Lysius c? Greek: lusios "releasing" and "delivering." An epithet of Dionysus. 20th C.

Lyssa 2 The Greek Goddess of madness, a personification of rage and fury. Gr: lussa "rage," "fury," "raging madness," "frenzy," "raging love," and "fanaticism." It was also used of rabies in dogs. The Goddess appears in Euripides's tragedy Herakles (c. 416 BCE). Princess Lyssa is a character in the fantasy film Krull (1983), which is probably the principal source of its use in the late twentieth century. It is also treated as a short form of Alyssa (see Alice), elaboration of LISA, and variant of Lissa, a short form of MELISSA. Var: Lytta.

Lyubov cc' Russian name-lyubov "love."

Lyulf c' Old English name-lig "flame" + wulf. Revived in the nineteenth century. Var: Lyulph. Lyall, the surname which derives from it, has been in use since the seventeenth century.

Lyvennet C\ Y The name of a river in Cumbria; it is almost certainly one and the same as the Llwyfenydd, a region in the "Old North" mentioned in a poem attributed to Taliesin. W: llwyfen "elm tree"-making it cognate with LAUNE.

Maat Y Egyptian Goddess of order, balance, and harmony, who created order from chaos at the start of the universe, and ordered the seasons and the passage of the stars. She also presides over right action-Gods and humans-making her a Goddess of justice and truth. Egyptian: mAat "truth" and "law." Var: Ma'at, Mayet.

Mab Y Mab is named the Queen of the Fairies by Shakespeare in Romeo and Juliet, and she has featured in literature ever since. Queen Mab (1813) is a poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley. The origin is not clear; it may simply be from MABEL-Mab was its short form during the Middle Ages. Alternatively, it could be from MABON, or even MAEVE, with whom she is now popularly associated. 19th C.

Mabel 2 Mabel developed in the Middle Ages as a shorter form of AMABEL. It was among the medieval names which captured Victorian imagination-Wordsworth used it in his sonnet "St. Catherine of Ledbury" (1835). Var: Mabee, Mabley, Mabella (hist); Maybelle (mod). Dim: MAB (hist); Mabbie, Mabs, MAY, BELL (mod). W: Mabli. Bearers: Mabel Besant-Scott (1870-1952), daughter of Annie Besant, a Theosophist, Rosicrucian, and Co-Freemason. Mack and Mabel (1974) is a musical by Jerry Herman.

Mabon c~ Often referred to as the Mabon, Mabon is one of the most significant of the Celtic Gods, whose veneration is attested from the Roman period, when he was known by the name Maponus. His name means simply "the Divine Son," and he is the son of Modron "the Divine Mother." The title of the Mabinogion derives from his name. He features by name only in Culhwch and Olwen, but it is believed that he is at the heart of the core of the Mabinogion itself-the "Four Branches" as they are called. He is identified with both Pryderi and Lleu-and even with Jesus. Mabon was used as a given name in the Middle Ages, though it probably represented an independent development of the name straight from W: mab "son," rather than an adoption of the name of the God. It returned in the nineteenth century, mostly in Wales.

Mabyn ?e The name of a Cornish female saint, who is also known as MABON in English. She may well in reality be a survival of that God. Deities changing sex when turned into saints is not unknown, and is probably a result of mistakes made by medieval scribes and hagiographers. It is not difficult to see how they might mistake the Cornish Mabyn as a female name-perhaps believing it to be a variant of MABEL.'The surname Mabyn derives from Mabon. 18th C. Var: Mabin, Maben, Mabena.

Mac Nisse c~ An alleged sixth-century Irish saint. He is sometimes called Angus Mac Nisse, but most forms of his name are variations on Mac Nisse alone, such as Macnise and Macnissi. Latinized as Macanisius and Macnisius. It means "son of NESSA"-and thus may in reality be the mythological figure Conchobhar mac Nessa of Ulster.

Macar c~ Macar occurs as the name of more than one figure in Greek mythology; the most famous is Macar, son of Aeolus, who killed himself after committing incest with his sister Canace. Gr: makar "blessed" and "fortunate." Var: Makar, Macareus.

Macaria Y In Greek mythology, Macaria is the name of a daughter of Heracles. After his death, she and her siblings took refuge in Athens, knowing that Eurystheus, their father's enemy of old, would try to kill them. Demophon, King of Athens, was prepared to go to war to protect them, but an oracle proclaimed that victory would only be his if a virgin was sacrificed. Macaria volunteered herself. Gr: makaria "happiness" and "bliss." Augusta Jane Evans's novel Macaria (1863) may have sparked its usage in the latter nineteenth century. An early occurrence is one Herminia Martha Jesusa Romana Macaria Angela Murphy, whose birth was registered in Hendon, Middlesex, in 1865. Var: Makaria.

Macbeth c~ Anglicized form of the Scots Gaelic Macbeatha from mac "son" + beatha "life." Although now regarded as a surname-and forever associated with the infamous Scottish king who was immortalized by Shakespeare in his tragedy Macbeth-Macbeth is actually a traditional personal name. However, most examples of Macbeth as a given name in the last couple of centuries or so are likely to represent use of the surname.

Mace c~ Y Mace has more than one meaning developing from unrelated sources. One "mace" is a medieval type of club consisting of a metal head with spikes on a wooden shaft, used by horsemen. L: mateola-the name of a piece of agricultural equipment. A far more attractive "mace" is the aromatic spice. Late L: macis "mace." Its use is mostly culinary, but it is added to incense and can be used magically to boost psychic and intellectual powers. It is ruled by Mercury and Air. Mace is also a surname, largely arising from a pet-form of MATTHEW or THOMAS. It is this last Mace which is responsible for most of Mace's use as a given name. 17th C.

Macer e Roman cognomen, most notably borne by the historian Gaius Licinius Macer (d. 66 BCE). L: macer "lean," "thin," and "meager." 18th C.

Macha ? Irish Goddess, believed to preside over warfare. She survives in a number of figures of Irish mythology, most notably as one of the three daughters of Ernmas-her sisters are Nemain and Badhbh. Her name is also preserved in Emain Macha, famously associated with Conchobhar Mac Nessa and the Red Branch of Ulster. It is identical to Middle Irish: macha "arable land" and "field," but this seems strangely tame for a Goddess of war, particularly given the meanings of her sisters' names. In Scots Gaelic, macha is the name of a type of crow. Whether this represents the survival of an old word for crow or whether it was named after the Goddess is very difficult to say. It does, however, fit rather better, as Badhbh definitely means "battle" and "crow." It may be a coincidence-or it may be not-that Gr: makha means "battle." St. Macha is almost certainly a Christianization of the Goddess. 20th C.

Mack cc By and large, Mack's use as a name is due to the nickname derived from any of the Scottish or Irish names beginning with Mac-. Gaelic: mac "son." But Mack is also a surname in its own right, deriving from Maccus-a curious name in use in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries from which MAXWELL also derives. It also features in the name of the village of Maxey in Cambridgeshire. It is generally believed to be Norse in origin, and may be a form of MAGNUS, but it is possible it is a purely Norse name from ON: makr "easy to deal with," from which also came makrddr "pleasant" and "agreeable." Maccus is also attested as a Celtic personal name on a shard of pottery found at St. Albans dating to the Roman period,

while the related Maccis occurs in Northumberland in the second century CE. Both derive from CC: *makko- "surety." 17th C. Mack features notably in Jerry Herman's musical Mack and Mabel (1974). "Mack the Knife" is a song by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht from The Threepenny Opera (1928).

Mackenzie Y c~ Scottish surname, the Anglicized form of the Gaelic MacCoinnich "son of CAINNEACH." It was first used for boys in the eighteenth century; in the nineteenth, it began to be bestowed on girls as a middle name, but its general use as a girl's name dates to the last quarter of the twentieth century. Var: Makenzie, McKenzie, M'Kenzie, Kenzie. Bearers: Sir Mackenzie Bowell (1823- 1917), a Canadian Prime Minister. J.K. Rowling named her daughter Mackenzie in 2005.

Macsen c~ Welsh form of MAXIMUS. It is sometimes semi-Anglicized as Maxen. Macsen Wledig is the Welsh name of the Roman Emperor Magnus Maximus (c. 335-88). Although he has become a folk-hero in Welsh legend, he bears the dubious honor of ordering the execution of the first person for the Christian crime of "heresy"; the laws used to convict the victim-Priscillian-were those against the practice of magic. It is perfectly clear from the accounts that Priscillian did not practice magic, and so his case could also be regarded as the first in which accusations of Witchcraft were used to extirpate individuals-for whatever reason. 20th C.

Macy Y G~ Occurrences of Macy as a spelling variant of MAISIE seem to crop up as early as the sixteenth century in Scotland. The surname Macy, however, originated in part as a pet-form of Matthew, and partly from Massy in Normandy. In the nineteenth century, it was given to boys. Since the late twentieth, it is mostly encountered as a girl's name, its use influenced by the American department store Macy's, founded by Rowland Macy in New York City in 1858. Var: Macey, Maci, Macie.

Maddie 2 Today, Maddie is regarded principally as the pet-form of MADELINE and MADISON; in the past it was also used as a pet-form of MATILDA. Used as a name in its own right since the late nineteenth century. Var: Maddy, Madi (mod).

Maddox Gc Welsh surname deriving from MADOC. 18th C. A child adopted by American actress Angelina Jolie in 2002 is called Maddox, which has considerably raised the name's profile.

Madeline Y Usual English form of Magdalene, a Greek byname meaning "(female) from Magdala." Magdala is believed to be the name of more than one place in Ancient Palestine; it is not known for certain which one the biblical character Mary Magdalene is supposed to have come from or lived in. The place name is probably derived from-or be the Aramaic cognate of-Hebrew: migdal "tower," from a root meaning "high." Mary Magdalene is a significant figure in early Christianity, about whom many myths and theories have developed over the centuries. In the twentieth century, she has even become a feminist icon. Her name has been used since the thirteenth century when her "relics" were "discovered," further fuelling her already growing cult. It was first introduced in its Latin form-Magdalena-and its French-Madeleine. Unsurprisingly, the name developed numerous variant and vernacular forms, among them Madelina, Madlin, Magdalen, Magdaline, Magdolen, Maudeleyn, Maudelin, Maudlin, Maudlyn, Mawdelin, Mawdelyn, and Mawdlin.'The last represents well the usual pronunciation of the name in the medieval and early modern periods; even today Magdalene College, Cambridge and Magdalen College, Oxford are pronounced "MAWD- lin." Other forms now in use include Madelaine, Madalyn, Madalynn, Madelyn, Madelynn, Madilyn, and Madoline. Dim: MADDIE. Magda-a short form originating in Germany and Scandinavia-and LENA have been used as names in their own right since the nineteenth century. Ger: Magdalene, Bul, Cz, Dut, Ger, Pol, Port, Scand, Sp: Magdalena, Port: Madalena, Rom: Madalina, It: Maddalena, W: Madlen, Cz: Madlenka; Lenka (dim), Dan: Magdalene, Malene, Hun: Magdolna, Sw, Sp: Malena, Sw: Malin, Fin: Matleena. Bearers: Madeleine Albright (b. 1937), the first female American Secretary of State; Madeleine L;Engle (1918-2007), the American novelist; Madeleine, a singing rag doll in the British children's television series Bagpuss (1974).

Madhukar c Indian name. San: madhukara "bee."

Madison Y c~ 'The surname Madison originated in the Middle Ages, mostly meaning "son of MATTHEW," though in some instances, it may be "son of

MAUD," from the latter's medieval pet form, Maddy. It was first used as a given name for boys in the seventeenth century. Since the last quarter of the twentieth, it has been used mostly for girls. Madison was the name chosen by the mermaid heroine of the film *Splash* (1984)-from Madison Square and its garden-and most of the name's use post-dates this film. Part of its popularity stems from its similarity to Alison and a mistaken assumption that Alison is composed of ALI + a suffix -son. Var: Maddison, Madyson, Madisyn. Dim: MADDIE.

Madoc c~ Traditional Welsh name-mad "fortunate," "lucky," and suitable" + dim. suffix -oc. Madog is often the preferred form in Wales itself It is the source of the surname MADDUX, and is borne by a number of figures in Welsh history and legend, such as the twelfth-century Madog ab Owain, who is credited with visiting America in the twelfth century.

Madoka Y Japanese girl's name-mado "circle" and "yen" + ka "flower" and "blossom," or mado "window" and ka "fragrance," "incense" and "redolence."

Madonna ? Madonna was originally an Italian respectful term of address for a woman, composed of ma-an unstressed form of mia "my"-and donna "lady," cognate with French madame and English "madam." It also came to be used of the Virgin Mary, especially paintings and statues of her. Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Madonna Ciccone (b. 1958), the American singersongwriter-her mother was also called Madonna. Madona is used by the Romani.

Madryn y An alleged fifth-century Welsh saint, said to be the daughter of Vortimer. In reality, she is probably one and the same with MODRON, representing a Christianization of the Celtic Goddess. Late 19th C. Var: Madrun, Materiana, Matron, Merthiana.

Mael c~ Welsh and Breton name-mael "prince." Fr: Mael. Fem: Maelle (Fr).

Maelgwn cc A sixth-century Welsh prince, identified by some with Mordred. W: mael "prince" + cwn "hounds." Late 19th C.

Maelys Y Feminine form of Breton MAEL. Fr: Maelys.

Maera Y The name of more than one character in Greek mythology; it is also the Greek name for the star Sirius. Gr: maira "the sparkler" < marmairo "to sparkle" and "to glitter." Var: Maira.

Maeve ? Maeve is the usual modern form of the Old Irish Medb, made famous by the warrior-queen of Connacht of Irish myth and legend. She is central to the Old Irish prose epic Tdin Bo Cuaiinge-"The Cattle Raid of Cooley." A powerful woman, who knew what she wanted-and how to get it-Medb is celebrated as a feminist icon... and demonized as a sex-crazed virago. It is thought highly likely that Medb represents the survival of a Goddess, possibly a Goddess of sovereignty; at Tara, part of a high king's inauguration involved a symbolic marriage to a Medb.'The name may be from CC: *medu- "mead."The element features in other Celtic names, such as the Gaulish Medugenos "mead-born; there are even a couple of examples from Roman Britain of Med inscribed on pieces of pottery-although this may be from CC: *medo- "judgment." Medb was in widespread use in Medieval Ireland, and was later rendered by names such as Mabel, Maud, and Marjorie. Revived 19th C. Var: Meadhbh, Meadhbha, Meabh (Ir Ga); Meave, Maev. Bearers: Maeve Binchy (b. 1940), the Irish novelist.

Magali Y A name said to have emerged in Provence, which was taken up across France and the French-speaking world in the twentieth century. Its etymology isn't entirely clear, but it is generally accepted that it developed either from MADELINE or MARGARET. Var: Magaly.

Mage c' Y The archaic word "mage" is now largely confined to fiction. Deriving from MAGUS, it was used to denote someone who was very wise and learned, and also meant "magician." There is a rare surname Mage, which is possibly a corruption of Magee, and may be responsible for some examples of Mage as a given name. A child registered in Islington, England in 1901 bore the interesting name Bernard le Mage Raymond. Le Mage (1891) was the name of an opera by Jules Massenet.

Magenta 2 The color magenta was one of those first synthesized in the nineteenth century.'The formula was discovered in 1860, and it was named

after the town of Magenta in Italy, where Napoleon III had defeated the Austrians in battle in 1859. The first bearers of the name were registered in 1859 (before the color got its patent), which suggests that they-and the few others who received the name in the 1860s-may have been named in honor of the battle, rather than the color. How long it was before it was the color foremost in people's minds is difficult to say. The town derives its name from castrum Maxentiae-"Maxentius's fort"; named after Emperor Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maxentius (c. 278- 312). Maxentius's name derived from that of his father MAXIMIAN. Bearers: Magenta, a character in Richard O'Briens *The Rocky Horror Show* (1973).

Maggie Y Maggie first became popular as the pet-form of Margaret in Scotland, and was already in independent use there by the nineteenth century. Sc Ga: Magaidh. "Maggie May" (1971) is a well-known song by Rod Stewart.

Magic Y c~ For many Pagans, magic plays a significant role in their spiritual path and religious practices-and is a far cry from the magic of popular imagination and fiction. Many prefer to use the spelling "magick" to differentiate the magic of Paganism-specifically Wicca and other forms of Witchcraft-from the word employed by society in general. Magic, Magick, Magyk, and Majick have all been used as given names since the twentieth century. Magical is also known. All are more likely to be encountered as a middle name, rather than as a first. The word "magic" derives from MAGUS.

Magnolia Y The magnolia was named in the eighteenth century after the French botanist Pierre Magnol. Native to parts of Asia and North America, the magnolia is much loved for its dramatic spring flowers. It is ascribed to Venus and Earth, and blooms of magnolia are said to be effective in promoting fidelity in relationships. It symbolizes beauty, love of Nature, dignity, and sweetness. Late 19th C.

Magnus e Latin: magnus "great," "mighty," "important," "large" and "big," etc. It was used in ancient times as a cognomen-a famous example being Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (106-48 BCE), often called Pompey the Great. Its first attested use as a given name in the post-Roman period was by King Olaf of Norway-a.k.a. St. Olaf-who bestowed it upon his son, King Magnus

I of Norway and Denmark (1024-47). It spread from Scandinavia to the Shetlands, the Orkneys, and parts of Scotland. Elsewhere in the ESW, its use dates from the sixteenth century. Sc Ga: MANAS. Bearers: Magnus Gallowglass, a character in Christopher Stasheff's Warlock of Gramarye series (1969-2004).

Mago a' Italian, Port, Sp: mago "wizard," "magician," and "sorcerer." 19th C.

Magus c Latin: magus "mage," "learned man." It was originally used specifically of a priestly caste of the Persians. This was later extended to mean "priest" and "wise man" generally. In the Christian period, it was mostly used to denote "(antiChristian) practitioner of magical arts"-as exemplified by the Samaritan magician Simon Magus, who features in the Bible. In the plural Magi, however, it refers to the "Three Wise Men" or "Three Kings"-the Eastern astrologers who supposedly visited the baby Jesus. 20th C. Fem: Maga. The Magus (1966) is a novel by John Fowles. In Kit Berry's Stonewylde series "Magus" is used as a title for the Master of Stonewylde.

Mahala ? e Biblical name of uncertain origin. It seems unlikely to derive from Heb: mahlah "disease" (often glossed as "barren" or "weak"), despite the resemblance-though it may come from the same root with the meaning "grieved" and "sorry." Related is another root meaning "sad tune," while a further identical root carries the meaning of "to beseech" and "to pray." Another possibility is a derivation from mehola "dance." 16th C. In the nineteenth century, Mahala was used as a girl's name among South-Eastern tribes such as the Choctaw and Cherokee, most likely deriving from MARY. "Mahala" also came into use in the nineteenth century as a slang term for a Native American woman-this is generally thought to derive from the Spanish mujer "woman." Var: Mahalah, Mahalath, Mahalia, Mahlah, Mehalah. Mehalah (1880) was a novel by Sabine Baring-Gould.

Mahalalel o~ Biblical name. Heb: "praise of (a) God." Late 20th C.

Mahasin a' Arabic name-mahasin "merits" and "good qualities."

Mahasti y Persian name-mah "moon"+ hasti "existence."

Mahdiyeh Y Persian name-mah "moon" + hadiyeh "gift." Var: Mahdieh.

Mahdokht 2 Persian name-mah "moon" + dokht "daughter."

Mahigan c y Algonquin: mahigan "wolf" Var: Maigan.

Mahnaz 2 Persian name-mah "moon" + naz "affection."

Mahogany Y c~ The name of a South American tree and the wood it produces, prized for its rich reddish-brown color and grain. It was the wood of choice for eighteenth-century furniture makers, and is still associated with luxury-it was also used in the past for railway sleepers, because of its durability and rot-resistance. Considered a tree of Fire, it is traditionally used to protect against lightning. The origin of the name is very uncertain. It is probably South American; Arawak: maga "mahogany." 20th C.

Mahraz 2 Persian name-mah "moon" + raz "secret" and "mystery."

Mahsuri Y Malaysian name. Malay: maha "great" + suri "queen." Mahsuri is a figure of folklore on the island of Langkawi, who was falsely accused of adultery and executed. According to the legend, this was virtually impossible to do, because she was innocent. As she died, she was said to have cursed Langkawi for seven generations. Her tomb is now a tourist attraction.

Mahtab Y Persian name-mah "moon" and tab "glow." Turk: Mehtap.

Mahzad Y Persian name-mah "moon" + zad "child."

Mai 2 Mai is the word for "May" in a number of languages, including French and Welsh. It also spells "I am" back wards. Unfortunately, in a number of African languages it means "dung." Late 19th C.

Maia 2 Greek and Roman Goddess, who is often identified with Gaia. Gr: maia "good mother"-used as a respectful term of address for old women. It also meant "fostermother" and "midwife." Maia is one of the Pleiades and the mother of Hermes. The Roman Maia is Goddess of the May and is identified with the Bona Dea. 19th C.

Maiko y Japanese name-mai "dance" and ko "child," used to refer to a geisha-in-training.

Mainio a' Finnish name-mainio "wonderful," "splendid," and "admirable."

Mair Y Welsh form of MARY. Mali is a pet form-the equivalent of English Molly. In Gaelic, mair means "to live," "to exist," "to last," and "to endure."

Maire Y Irish Gaelic form of MARY. Mary was barely used at all in Ireland before the seventeenth century, as, along with other major saints, the name was considered too holy for everyday use. When they were taken up-around the same time that the Irish language was banned for official use-Mary began to be used to render the traditional Irish Gaelic name Mor. Sometimes Anglicized as Moira or Maura; a modern phonetic version is Moya. Dim: Mallaidh, Maille, Maili, and Mairin-Anglicized as MAUREEN. Bearers: Maire Brennan (b. 1952)-also known as Moya Brennan-is an Irish folk-singer, lead singer of Clannad.

Mairenni Y A name used by the English Romani, recorded from the nineteenth century. The origin is uncertain, but it may possibly be connected with MARINA. Var: Maireni.

Maisie ? Scottish pet-form of MARGARET. Used in Scotland since at least the sixteenth century, it spread to the rest of the ESW in the nineteenth. Var: MACY, Massey, Mazie, Maizie.

Makana c3' y Hawaiian name-makana "gift" and "prize."

Makani cc Hawaiian name-makani "wind" and "gale" (also "flatulence"); "ghost" and "spirit."

Makara Y Sanskrit: makara "crocodile," "shark," "dolphin," and "porpoise"-the Hindu name for Capricorn. It is also the name for the Pleiades among the Adnyamathanha tribe of South Australia, who believe the stars are the wives of Orion. In Greek, makara also happens to mean "blessed" and "happy" (see Macar, Macaria).

Makari cc Russian name. Gr: Makarios "blessed" and "happy," the name of a fourth-century saint venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Var: Makariy.

Makeda Y In Ethiopian legend, Makeda is the name ascribed to the biblical Queen of Sheba. The name almost certainly evolved from the Semitic word for "queen," which features in the Hebrew form of her "name"-Malkat Shva "Queen of Sheba."

Makena Y Most of Makena's use is as a variant of McKENNA. In Hawaiian, however, makena means both "lamentation" and "calm."

Makoto c' Y Japanese name-makoto "sincerity," "good faith," "a true heart."

Mal Y Mal is generally thought of today as a short form of MALCOLM, but in the past it was also a short form of MARY. Var: Mall, Mally.

Malachi c?' Biblical name. Heb: "my messenger." 16th C. Var: Malakai, Malaki (mod).

Malachite e Y The name of the veined rich green stone, valued for its ability to magnify energy of all kinds-psyhic and emotional-and to absorb negative energy. It is a useful aid to meditation, or even scrying. In healing, it is believed to be beneficial for cramps of various kinds and for strengthening the immune system. Chemically, it is a type of copper carbonate (hence the color). Gr: malakhe "mallow"-for some reason, the ancients associated the plant and the stone, supposedly because of the color-even though mallows are purple-pink. Mid-20th C.

Malachy c?' Anglicized form of two Irish Gaelic names. Mael Sechnaill-a variant of Mael Seachlainn (see Seachlann)-and Mael Maedoc or Maelmhaodhog "servant of St. Maedoc." Maedoc is a diminutive of Aed (see Aodh), prefixed by the affectionate prefix mo "my." Much confused with Malachi.

Malati y Indian name. San: malati "jasmine."

Malcolm c' Scots Gaelic name from Maol Choluim "servant of COLUMBA." Used in Scotland for at least a thousand years-and borne by four kings of Scotland. Dim: MAL, Maley. Var: Maolcholuim, Mael Choluim. Bearers: Malcolm Arnold (1921-2003), the British composer; Malcolm Fraser (b. 1930), an Australian Prime Minister; Malcolm X (1925-65), the American civil rights activist; Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds, a character in the American science-fiction series Firefly (2002-03).

Malduc 6 The name of a powerful wizard in Arthurian Romance. He was an enemy of Arthur's, and when Arthur was forced to seek his help to rescue Guinevere, he demanded that Arthur hand over Gawain and Erec-two knights with whom he also had grievances. They were eventually rescued by Lancelot. His name may be based on Mael Maedoc (see Malachy).

Maldwyn cc Welsh form of BALDWIN, resurrected in Wales in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Maldwyn Jones (1922-2007), a Welsh-born historian, who specialized in American history.

Malia Y Hawaiian form of MARY and MARIA; it has recently been put in the spotlight because it is the name of one of Barack Obama's daughters-Obama has strong ties with Hawaii, which presumably accounts for the choice. Very similar is the Hawaiian girl's name Malie, from malie "calm," "quiet," and "serene." Var: Maliyah.

Malik c Arabic name-malik "king."

Malim d' Malaysian name. Malay: malim "leader" and "magician."

Malina Y A simplified form of Malcolmina, a feminine form of MALCOLM, which came into use in Scotland in the early nineteenth century. Malina also means "raspberry" in some Slavic languages, including Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, and Slovak, and is also used as a girl's name in Poland.

Malini 2 Indian name. San: mala "garland." It is borne by the Kumari-the incarnation of the Goddess Durga-at the age of seven.

Malkyn Y Medieval pet-form of MARY, formed with the diminutive suffix -kin added to the short form MAL. A Madam Malkyn features in the Harry Potter series.

Mallory (' ? English surname, made famous by Sir Thomas Malory, author of *Le Morte d Arthur* (1485). OF: maloret-also maleure and malore-"unlucky" and "unfortunate." It has been bestowed upon boys since the seventeenth century. In the late twentieth, it has come into general use as a girl's name-largely because of the character Mallory Keaton from the American sitcom *Family Ties* (1982-89).

Mallow ? c~ English form of Latin: MALVA. All mallows are ruled by Venus (though some say the Moon) and Water. Magically, the mallow is useful when working spells of love and protection, and in herbal medicine, they have a number of uses. In the sixteenth century, it was known as a "cure all," and used for everything from speeding up the delivery of a baby to treating bruises; in modern herbal medicine, it is used internally to treat chest complaints such as bronchitis and asthma, and externally for eczema, abscesses, and bites. The young leaves and seed pods of common mallow can be eaten as a salad. The root of the marsh mallow (actually a separate species-see *Althea*), used to be powdered and made into lozenges to treat throat infections and coughs-eventually becoming marshmallow candy (which no longer contains any marsh mallow at all). Late 19th C.

Malo c' The name of a Breton saint. Variant forms such as Maclou and Latin Maclovius give clues to its origin. This could be CC: *maglo- "noble" and "chief," or *makko- "surety" + *lowko- "bright," or even *magu- "servant" + LUGUS. Used in the ESW from the nineteenth century.

Maloney c? Y Romani: maloney "lightning." It derives from MOLINYA.

Malva 2 Latin: malva "mallow." Late 19th C.

Malvina 2 Malvina was coined by James Macpherson for the Ossianic Poems from Jr Ga: maol "brow" + min "soft" and "smooth." It has been in use since the poems were published-mostly outside Ireland. Bearers: Malvina Hoffman (1887-1966), the American sculptor; Malvina Reynolds (1900-78), the American folk-singer and political activist. Pol: Malwina.

Mainers e An Oscan God, identified with Mars. It is possible the two names are cognate. Mamercus was a rare Roman praenomen derived from it, which was regarded as Oscan in origin. It was most used in the gens Aemilia, who claimed descent from a man called Mamercus-one of the sons of King Numa.

Mana a' Maori name-mana "prestige," "power," "influence," and "charisma"-also used specifically of spiritual power. It is believed that a person is born with indestructable mana, inherited from the divine ancestors, its strength dependent upon a person's ancestry.

Manami Y Japanese name-mana "love" and "affection" + mi "beautiful," or mi "sea."

Manannan c? The Irish God of the sea, whose name is cognate with MANAWYDAN. The son of Lit, he features prominently in Irish myth, being particularly associated with the Isle of Man, where he is known as Mannan. His name almost certainly derives from the island; its name even in the Roman period was recorded as Manavia and Monaoeda. The Isle of Man's Welsh name is Manaw, and other early Gaelic forms include Mann or Mana, which all bear a striking resemblance to the Welsh name for Anglesey-Mon (see Mona). Both islands probably get their names from CC: *monjo- or *menjo- "mountain," the probable source of W: mynydd "mountain." Late 20th C.

Manas e In Scotland, Manas is the Gaelic form of MAGNUS. Manas is also the name of the central character of the important Kyrgyz oral epic poem Manas, featuring the exploits and adventures of the hero. Its date is uncertain; since it was not written down until the twentieth century-it is likely, as is the way with oral epic poetry-to have evolved over time-but it officially celebrated its thousandth year in 1995.

Manasseh c~ Biblical name, most famously borne by a son of Joseph. It derives from a Hebrew verb meaning "to forget," but whether the emphasis is "from forgetting" or "making to forget" is less clear. 16th C. Gr: Manasses.

Manat Y A Goddess of fate, whose worship is attested at Mecca prior to the arrival of Islam. Her name is almost certainly related to Akkadian: manu "to count," "to reckon," and "to calculate." Var: Manathu, Manawat-the form of her name encountered at Petra. She is identified with the Goddess Ashima.

Manawydan c~ Welsh form of MANNANAN. It is intriguingly similar to Monaoeda-one of the names of the Isle of Man recorded in the Roman period, as well as W: mynydd "mountain," with which it may be cognate. Manawydan himself features prominently in the Mabinogion, surviving the disastrous war with Ireland after the ill-fated marriage of his sister Branwen to Matholwch. After the death of Pwyll, he married Rhiannon. 20th C.

Mandragon c' Obsolete form of MANDRAKE, evolved from MANDRAGORA. 20th C.

Mandragora Y Latin name for the mandrake. It derives from Greek Mandragoras "mandrake"-which was also used as an epithet of ZEUS. The ultimate source is Persian: mardum giya "man plant."

Mandrake (-~ ? There are few plants so steeped in folklore and legend as the mandrake, most of which stem from two key facts-firstly, the curious tendency for the roots to resemble humans, and secondly, the fact that it is narcotic and hallucinogenic. It was used in ancient times as a sedative and pain-killer; in the Roman period it was even used as an anesthetic in operations. Its magical and mysterious properties were well established by Anglo-Saxon times, when it was used to treat perceived demonic possession, and by the Middle Ages it was thoroughly associated with Witches and their rituals. It was also believed to be an aphrodisiac and a cure for sterility-it even features being used in this way in the Bible, when Rachel bribes Leah to give her the mandrakes one of her sons has brought her; Joseph was the result. Another major use of the mandrake in folk-tradition was protection; mandrake roots were placed in homes as amulets to ward off evil and misfortune. The trade was so big in Tudor times that bryony roots-much more readily available-were often dug up and carved to look like mandrake roots. Of course, the most famous myth surrounding the mandrake is that the shriek it is said to make when dug up is capable of

killing anyone who hears it. A plant of Mercury and Fire, it is still used by Witches for protection and to induce fertility and love. Late 20th C.

Manfred cc Old German name-mana "a man" + fritbu "peace." It was taken to Britain by the Normans, but didn't become established. The name continued to be used in Germany, however, and returned to the ESW in the nineteenth century, its use inspired by Lord Byron's poem "Manfred" (1817). Dim: Mannie, Manny, FRED. Manfred also features as the name of a main character in Horace Walpole's Gothic novel *The Castle of Otranto* (1764). A woolly mammoth called Manfred-Manny-features in the film *Ice Age* (2002) and its sequels. Port: Manfredo, Romani: Manfri.

Mani c~ Indian name. San: mani "jewel."

Mani cc Norse God of the moon. ON: mdni "moon."

Manley e English surname, from one of the places of the name. OE: gemcene "common" + leap. 17th C. Use since the twentieth century may sometimes have been in honor of the poet Gerald Manley Hopkins (1844-89), or inspired simply by the name's resemblance to English "manly."

Manon Y French pet-form of MARIE. *L'Histoire du Chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut* (1731) was a novel by the Abbe Prevost upon which *Manon* (1884)-a comic opera by Jules Massenet-was based, as well as the 1949 French film *Manon*. *Manon des Sources* (1966)-the sequel of *jean de Florette*-is a novel by Marcel Pagnol, which became known worldwide by the film version of 1986 (released in America as *Manon of the Spring*). 19th C.

Mantas c~ Lithuanian name-manta "property" and "belongings."

Manto Y The name of two women in Greek mythology, a daughter of Heracles, and a daughter of the Greek seer Tiresias, who shared her father's prophetic skills. Gr: mantis "seer" and "prophet." Manto is also the name of a genus of butterfly. 19th C.

Mantra 2 ' Sanskrit: mantra "formula," "prayer," "advice," and "spell." It is used in Hinduism to denote a sacred text or passage which is used as a

prayer or incantation.

Mantua Y Historic city in Italy. In Roman times, it was said to take its name from MANTO; in fact it probably derives from Mantus, an Etruscan God associated with the Underworld. 19th C.

Manuka Y Two Australasian shrubs-red manuka and white manuka. The honey made from the flowers of the white manuka is prized for its health-giving and healing properties. Manuka is the Maori name for the shrubs. Late 20th C.

Maolan c Old Irish name-maol "bare," "bald," and "forehead" (it also carried the meaning of "monk" because monks shaved the crown of their heads) + dim. suffix -an. Borne by a sixth-century saint.

Maon Y The name of more than one woman in Irish myth. 01: main "gift" < CC: *moyni- "treasure" or "precious object"; in Scots Gaelic, maon means "hero." Var: Mien.

Mapenzi 2 c3' Swahili: mapenzi "wish," "inclination," "favor," and "desire."

Maple 2 ' The maple is found across the Northern Hemisphere; with two species being particularly prized-the North American sugar maple, from which maple syrup is drawn, and the Japanese maple, cultivated for its exquisitely beautiful leaves and outstanding autumn coloration. The maple is the national emblem of Canada, appearing prominently on the Canadian flag. Meanwhile, in Japan, watching the leaves change color in the fall even has a name-mom~igari. Ruled by Jupiter and Air, the maple is used magically in spells and charms relating to love and money. OE: mapulder "maple tree," cognate with the Old High German MAZALTRA. The ultimate etymology is uncertain. The surname derives from the name of the tree, referring to someone who dwelt by or near a maple. 17th C.

Mara Y The name of a Latvian Goddess, almost certainly deriving from PIE: *mer- "to die." Death is one of her principal attributes, but she also presides over women and markets, roles very similar to those of Juno. She is also a Goddess of agriculture; the pairing of agriculture and death is

reminiscent of Persephone. In Polish folklore, a mara is a type of malevolent female spirit, with attributes similar to an incubus-sitting on the chest of a sleeping person and causing nightmares. This may be cognate with English "(night)mare." Mara is also a variant of MARAH and the name of a river in Kenya and Tanzania-Maasai: mara "spotted," a word which features in the name of one of the world's most famous nature reserves, the Maasai Mara.

Marah y Biblical name. Heb: mar "bitter." 16th C.

Marcan cc' Old Irish name-marc "horse," "charger," and "steed" + dim. suffix -an. It was borne by more than one character in early Irish history.

Marcella y Feminine form of MARCELLUS. Two of the Emperor Augustus's nieces were called Claudia Marcella. `There is also a late fourth-century saint of the name. Used since the Middle Ages, the name has traditionally seen most use in Scotland. Cro, Cz, Pol, Sp: Marcela, It: Marcella, Fr: Marcelle, Sc Ga: Marsaili. Meslie, a variant of this, was borne by a woman called Meslie Hirdal, who was accused of Witchcraft at Lonhead, Nairnshire in 1662. Her fate is unknown.

Marcellina 2 Feminine form of Latin Marcellinus "of MARCELLUS." It was borne by a fourth-century saint. It is encountered in Britain in the Middle Ages, but did not settle and is not encountered in the ESW again before the nineteenth century. Fr: Marcelline.

Marcellus Latin diminutive of MARCUS, used as a cognomen and particularly associated with the gens Claudia. Marcus Claudius Marcellus (42-23 BCE) was the nephew of Emperor Augustus and the first husband of Augustus's daughter Julia. Two popes were also called Marcellus; the first became a saint. 16th C. Fr, Get, Rom: Marcel, Port, Sp: Marcelo, It: Marcello.

March c' Y March is both the name of a month and a surname, the latter deriving from OF: marche "boundary." In Britain, "the Marches" is still a term used today to denote the belt of land on the boundary with Wales-particularly Shropshire and Herefordshire-which has a peculiar character all of its own, not quite English, but not quite Welsh.'The month derives from

L: (mensis) Martins "March" < MARS. It is the month of spring and the Spring Equinox, and thus a month much associated with regeneration, new beginnings, new life and hope. For the Romans, this included preparing for the campaigning season; propitiating festivals in honor of Mars filled the month's calendar, hence its name. 17th C.

Marcia) Feminine form of Marcius, the name of a Roman gens, which derived from MARCUS. Ancus Marcius was one of the kings of Rome prior to the founding of the Republic in 510 BCE, and Gaius Marcius Coriolanus is the title character of Shakespeare's Coriolanus. There is a legendary Queen Marcia, who ruled Britain during the minority of her son Sisillius-so Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote. 16th C. Bearers: Marcia Overstrand, a wizard in Angie Sage's Septimus Heap novels (2005-). Dim: Marcie, Marcy.

Marcus cc Roman praenomen. Marcus almost certainly derived from MARS, though L: marcus also meant "large hammer." The name was so common in the Roman World that it acquired a Greek form-Markos-from which MARK derives. 16th C. Bearers: Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BCE), the orator; Marcus Antonius-a.k.a. Mark Antony (83-30 BCE); Marcus Aurelius (121-80 CE), the Roman Emperor; Marcus Belby, a wizard in the Harry Potter series. Marcus Welby M.D. (1969-76) was an American television series.

Marduk c? The principal God of Babylon; magic is counted among his attributes-he used it to win a victory over the Goddess Tiamat, which was recorded in Mesopotamian art and literature, and may have been acted out ritualistically. He is also a God of healing. His name occurs in the Bible as Merodach, and may derive from Sumerian: mar "young bull" + Utu-the Sumerian sun God, equated with SHAMASH. 20th C.

Mare y cc The English word "mare" is now generally used for a female horse, but originally it was used of a horse of either sex. It represents a merging of two Old English words: mearh-cognate with Gaelic: mart "horse"-and mire "mare". Symbolically, the mare stands for motherhood, fertility, and the sovereignty of the land. The Goddesses Epona and Rhiannon are both strongly associated with mares. The surname Mare-often de la Mare (and variations)-led to Mare's use as a given name from the

eighteenth century-possibly earlier (it is not easy to identify early examples, as they tend to get lost within the plethora of Marys). The origins of this Mare, however, lie with OE: mere "pool," cognate with L: mare "sea." The word "mare" also used to be used of a type of spirit or demon believed to sit on the chests of people as they slept and inducing a feeling of suffocation-it survives in the word "nightmare," and is probably cognate with the CC: *mor- of MORRIGAN, and the MARA of Polish folklore.

Marfisa ? Marfisa features in Boiardo's Orlando Inamorato and Ariosto's Orlando Furioso as the name of the sister of Ruggiero. Separated at birth, she becomes queen of India. She and Ruggiero are later reunited; before she learns who he is, she falls in love with him-but the truth comes out before any damage is done. The etymology is unknown. 19th C. Var: Marphisa.

Marga Y Also known as Margo, Marga in Irish mythology is the fairy mother of Etain. The etymology is unknown. Marga is also one of the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. San: marga "path" and "way"-a reference to the Eightfold Path.

Margaret) Margaret evolved from Latin Margarita < Gr: margarites "pearl" < Persian < marvarid. St. Margaret of Antioch is said to have died in the early fourth century. As early as the fifth century, however, her existence was being questioned, even by the Church. Her hagiographer may well have been on mandrakes when he wrote her life, which is over the top even by the standards of Christian hagiographies; her tortures included being swallowed alive by Satan in the form of a dragon-which she still managed to survive! In reality, she almost certainly represents the Christianization of a Pagan Goddess, and the connection of Aphrodite to pearls have made Aphrodite a strong contender. The fact that St. Margaret is also known as Marina further supports this hypothesis. Margaret's cult in Western Europe took off in the eleventh-century when it was brought back from the East by crusading knights. As a patron saint of childbirth, she was invoked by women in labor and this may be one reason why her name became one of the most widely used of the medieval period. Var: MARGERY. Dim: Magge, Magot, Megge, Meggot, Mog, Pog, Pogy (hist); Madge, MEG, PEGGY, MAY. Dut: Greet, Greetje, Grier (dim), Ger: GRETA,

GRETCHEN, GRETEL (dim), Lat: Grieta (dim), Sc: MAGGIE, Maidie, MAISIE, Mysie (dim), Sc Ga: Maighread, Mairead, Jr Ga: Mairead, Pol: Malgorzata; Ma1go4ka, Gosia, Goska (dim), Est: Maret, Cat: Margalida, Fin: Margareeta, Marketta, Maarit; Reeta, Reetta (dim), Dut, Ger, Rom, Scand: Margareta, Hun: Margit, Ger, Est: Margarete, Ger, Dut: Margaretha, Ger, Dan: Margarethe, Port: Margarida, Gr, Lat, Ru, Sp: Margarita, It: Margherita; RITA (dim), W: Margiad, Marged, Mared; MEGAN (dim), Dan, Nor: Margrethe, Fr: MARGUERITE; MARGOT (dim), Nor: Marit, Cz, Slk: Marketa; Gitka, Gituska (dim), Scand: Meta (dim). Bearers: St. Margaret of Scotland (1045-93), queen of King Malcolm III of Scotland; Lady Margaret Beaufort (1443-1509), the mother of King Henry VII; Margaret Murray (1863-1963), the British academic and author of *The Witch Cult in Western Europe* (1921); Margaret Mitchell (1900-49), the American novelist; Margaret Thatcher (b. 1925), the former British Prime Minister. Margaret Jones (d. 1648), a midwife and healer, was the first person executed for Witchcraft in Massachusetts; Margaret Jacobs and Margaret Toothaker were among those accused of Witchcraft at Salem in 1692.

Margery Y A variant of MARGARET in use in Britain from the late twelfth century. By the seventeenth century, its true origins had been completely forgotten and etymologists were deriving it from MARJORAM. Its use had dwindled away almost to nothing by the nineteenth century, when it was revived along with other medieval names. Var: Margeria, Marjory (hist); MARJORIE. Dim: Madge, Marge, Margie, Margo. Bearers: Margery Jourdain, the "Witch of Eye," executed in 1441 for conspiring to kill the king with Witchcraft, along with three priests attached to the Duchess of Gloucester.

Margot ? Margot is a French short form of MARGARET, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Emma Alice Margaret "Margot" Asquith (1864-1945), nee Tennant, the writer, socialite and wife of H.H. Asquith, a British Prime Minister; Margot Adler (b. 1944), the American Wiccan author and lecturer, best known for *Drawing Down the Moon* (1979).

Marguerite Y French form of MARGARET, used in the ESW from the nineteenth century. It is also the French word for daisy, which led to Daisy being adopted as a pet-form of Margaret in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon, a.k.a. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother (1900-2002); Marguerite St. Just, the wife of Sir Percy Blakeney in Baroness Orczy's *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (1905), and subsequent works.

Mari Y The name of two unrelated Goddesses. The first is a Basque fertility Goddess, associated with the weather and Witches, the etymology of which is uncertain. It may be Basque: ama "mother" + the professional suffix -ari. The second is a Hindu Mother Goddess, who is associated with rain and disease. She is also known as Mariamman and Amman. Tamil: mari "rain." In Wales, the Mari Lwyd-"Grey Mary"-is the skull of a mare on a pole, which is paraded around the streets of some towns and villages at the New Year, and is believed by many to be a survival of an ancient Pagan custom.

Maria Y The Latin form of MARY. It has been used in Latin documents since the Middle Ages, but only started to be used as a given name in the eighteenth century, when it was pronounced "ma-RI-a," a pronunciation now largely confined to the variant Mariah. The pronunciation "ma-REE-a" was originally Italian, Spanish, and German, etc. and took over in the ESW during the course of the twentieth century. Maria is also the feminine form of MARIUS-but this is incidental. Bearers: Maria Hale, a legendary eighteenth-century Witch of Aldermaston, Berkshire, who could reputedly turn herself into a hare. On one occasion, she was shot while a hare-and ever afterwards was said to walk with a limp.

Mariabella Y A seventeenth-century creation, combining MARIA with BELLA, possibly inspired by MIRABEL. Var: Maribella, Mariabel, Maribel.

Mariana 2 Mariana is essentially an elaboration of MARY, which could be interpreted to mean "of Mary" if the -ana ending is treated as having the same meaning as it had in Roman times. It can also be considered a feminine form of Latin Marianus-"belonging to MARIUS"-a name borne by more than one early saint. Mariana is encountered in Britain in the

Middle Ages, when it probably represents a Latinized form of MARION. Revived late 18th C. "Mariana" (1830) is a cheerless poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

Marianne Y Variant of MARION. It was coined in the late eighteenth century, when the variant Marian led people to assume it was actually a combination of MARY and ANN. Bearers: Marianne Dashwood, one of the heroines of Jane Austens *Sense and Sensibility* (1811); Marianne Faithfull (b. 1946), the British singer-songwriter.

Marie Y French form of MARY. It has also featured as a spelling variant in Britain over the centuries-though was only consciously adopted from the French in the nineteenth century. Marie-France is a twentieth-century combination. Bearers: Marie Antoinette (1755-93), the Austrian-born queen of France; Marie de Medici (1575-1642), Regent of France during the minority of her son Louis XIII; two Voodoo queens called Marie Laveau, a mother (d. 1881) and daughter (1827-97).

Mariel Y A late nineteenth-century blend of MARY and MURIEL. It may have been inspired by the Italian Mariella or French Marielle-diminutive forms of MARIA and MARIE respectively-used in the ESW since the nineteenth century.

Marietta ? A diminutive of MARIA. 17th C. Fr: Mariette-often treated as a telescoped form of Marie Antoinette.'This is certainly the source of the name of the town of Marietta, Ohio, which was founded in 1788. Marietta Edgcombe is a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Marigold Y The name of two distinct plants-the English or pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*) and the French (*Tagetes patula*). Another member of the *Tagetes* family is the Mexican marigold, which was used by the Aztecs to flavor chocolate. All have medicinal and magical properties.'The English marigold is a herb of the Sun and ruled by Leo. It has long been valued for its ability to strengthen and comfort the heart, and raise the spirits-especially when picked at noon in full sunshine. Magically, it is used for protection and to promote prophetic dreams; it is one of the ingredients used in a potion brewed by girls on St. Luke's Day (October 18), along with marjoram, wormwood, and thyme. Ground into a powder, they were

simmered in vinegar. The girl anointed herself with it at bedtime, saying "St. Luke, St. Luke, be kind to me/in dreams let me my true love see." Symbolically, the marigold stands for sacred affection, but it can also represent both grief and jealousy. In herbal medicine, it is particularly valued for its ability to soothe and heal minor cuts and bruises and other skin complaints, such as eczema. French marigolds are used in herbal medicine as a diuretic and to improve digestion, but they are most valued by gardeners for their natural ability to repel garden pests. The name is a simple combination of MARY and GOLD. Late 16th C.

Marijani Y Swahili: mar~ani "red coral." It is the origin of the East African girl's name Marjani.

Marilla Y Diminutive form of MARY, used since the nineteenth century, mostly in Canada-which is fitting, as its most famous bearers are Marilla Cuthbert and Marilla "Rilla" Blythe, both characters in Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* novels (1908-39).

Marilyn Y A twentieth-century elaboration of MARY + the suffix -lyn. Most use post-dates the rise to fame of Marilyn Monroe (1926-62)-whose birth name was famously Norma Jean Mortenson. Bearers: Marilyn Munster, a character in *The Munsters* (1964-66).

Marin c~ A name used in a number of languages, such as French and Romanian, deriving from the Latin *Marinus* "of the sea" or "belonging to the sea." It was used as a cognomen in Roman times and was borne by a number of saints. It: Marino, Welsh: MEIRION.

Marina y Latin: *marinus* "of the sea," or "belonging to the sea." It was an epithet of Venus. There is more than one saint of the name-one of whom is identified with St. Margaret. Marina is encountered as a given name in Britain from as early as the fourteenth century. By the nineteenth century, it was regarded as a Romani name-and it may well be behind MAIRENNI. Get, Nor, Dut: Maren, Fr: Marine, Dan: Marna. Bearers: Princess Marina of Greece (1906-68), the wife of Prince George, Duke of Kent.

Marion ? Medieval pet-form of MARY, formed by the addition of the diminutive suffix -on. By the fourteenth century, it was being used as a

name in its own right. Var: Marian. Bearers: Maid Marion, the folk-figure regarded by many Pagans as a version of the Goddess, the May Queen, Bride of the Green Man; Marion Zimmer Bradley (1930-99), the American novelist, best known for *Mists of Avalon* (1982); Marian Green, a British writer on Witchcraft.

Maris c~Y Etruscan God of fertility and agriculture. It is possible that he is the source of the Roman MARS. Maris is also an English surname, deriving from Marais (meaning "marsh"), in Calvados, France. First encountered as a boy's name in the seventeenth century, it was increasingly used for girls from the late nineteenth. 'This may reflect the adoption of the "Maris" part of Stella Maris, "star of the sea," a title of the Virgin Mary- which originally belonged to the Goddess Isis.

Marisol 2 Spanish name. MARIA + SOL. Used in the ESW since the early twentieth century.

Marissa Y Marissa is generally treated as a variant of the Spanish Marisa, usually considered to be a blend of MARIA with Luisa (see Louisa). However, it first occurs in the ESW in the nineteenth century, and could be an English creation, coined-with no reference to the Spanish name-as an elaboration of MARI S, or of MARIA with the suffix -issa.

Marita Y In Dutch, Finnish, German, and Spanish, Marita is a pet-form of MARIA; in Swedish and Norwegian, however, it is a variant of MARGARET. 19th C.

Marius c~ Marius is the name of a Roman gens of uncertain origin. It may be derived from MARS, or from L: mas "male" and "manly," or possibly even L: mare "sea." 17th C. It: Mario.

Marjolaine Y Now regarded as the French form of MARJORAM, "marjolaine" was also used as a name for the plant in England in the Middle Ages. 20th C.

Marjoram 2 e The herb marjoram (often called sweet marjoram) is known to most people as a culinary herb, closely akin to oregano-they both belong to the family Origanum. Marjoram is *Origanum majorana*-from which the

name derives. L: majorana is a late development, possibly an alteration of the sixth-century name of the plant mezurana-but the origins of this are unclear also. The original Latin name for marjoram was amaracus, which is another possible source. A plant of Mercury and Air, and ruled by Aries, marjoram symbolizes joy and happiness. It is used to treat a number of complaints, from bronchial conditions to painful menstruation. In magic, it is used for protection and to promote health, happiness and love. It was one of the ingredients in the potion prepared by girls on St. Luke's day (October 18) who wished to learn the identity of their future husbands (see Marigold). 19th C.

Marjorie Y Medieval variant of MARGERY. This spelling was reinforced in the seventeenth century by the belief that the name derived from MARJORAM. By the nineteenth century, Marjorie had come to be regarded as the Scottish form, though originally it was used everywhere. Bearers: Marjorie Cameron (1922-95), the artist, actress, and Thelemite, noted for her collaboration with Jack Parsons.

Mark c? The usual English version of MARCUS, via the Greek Markos-the form of the name used in the Eastern Roman Empire. One of the Gospels is attributed to the first-century St. Mark the Evangelist, and he is responsible for the name's use from the Middle Ages. Haw: Maleko, Fr: Marc, It: Marco, Port, Sp: Marcos, Cz, Pol, Slk: Marek, Fin: Markku, Basque, Bul, Cro, Fin, Serb, Ukr: Marko, Ger: Markus. Bearers: Mark Twain (1835-1910)-the pen-name of American novelist Samuel Clemens.

Marlene y Marlene is a telescoping of MARY and MADELINE, which have frequently been bestowed together in Catholic countries. Found in Germany from the eighteenth century, Marlene began to appear in the ESW in the mid-nineteenth century. The German-born actress Marlene Dietrich (1901-92)-born Marie Magdalene-was responsible for making the name well-known in the ESW. Var: Marlina. Dim: Marlie, Marly, LENA.

Marley Y c~ English surname deriving from one of the places called Marley or Mearley. OE: mearth "pine marten" or "weasel," or mcere "boundary" + leak. First used for boys in the eighteenth century, it has increasingly been used for girls in the last twenty years. Bob Marley (1945-

81), the musician, has made Marley a familiar name. Var: Marlee, Marleigh.

Marlin The origins of Marlin are obscure, but the most likely source is MERLIN. It is encountered as a surname from the Middle Ages, and was in use as a given name from the sixteenth century. Since the early nineteenth century, marlin has also been another name for a type of bird usually called a godwit, and since the early twentieth, it has also been used for a large fish, also known as a spearfish. Var: Marlynborne by a son of Morgan le Fay and Ogier the Dane in some medieval romances.

Marlon c~ Marlon is a name whose use is entirely traceable to one prominent individual-the American actor and civil rights activist Marlon Brando Jr. (1924-2004). Marlon was named after his father, the film producer Marlon Brando Sr. (1895-1965). Most people hold their hands in the air at this point and give up as to how Brando Senior's parents Eugene and Marie-came up with such a curious name. But there is in fact a third Marlon Brando, who was born in New York in the early 1840s and was alive and well in 1900 and Eugene was almost certainly his cousin. His name in the 1850 census is not recorded as Marlon but Marland, which is ironic, as this is a frequent mis-spelling of the name of the great Brando himself, even at the height of his fame. Marland is a variant of the surname Moreland, which may have simply been bestowed originally upon someone who lived on or by moorland. In some cases, it derives from Morland in Cumbria-ON: mor "moor" and "marsh" + lundr "grove." Marland-and other variants of the surname-are found in use as given names from the seventeenth century.

Marmaduke c~ Marmaduke's homeland is Yorkshire, England, although bearers are found in other counties across the centuries. The use of Marmaduke is almost certainly attributable to one Maelmaedhog-also referred to as Melmidoc-who held land in Welbury, Yorkshire during the reign of King Edward the Confessor, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. This is almost certainly the Gaelic name Mael Maedoc (see Malachy)-or a cognate; it is usually assumed that Maelmaedhog was Irish, but it is possible that he came from Scotland. The usual medieval form was

Marmaduc. Dim: DUKE (mod). It features in Anthony Trollope's novel Phineas Finn (1867) and Virginia Woolf's Orlando (1928).

Marne 2 c~ 'The name of a river in France. It derives from MATRONA-its name in Roman times. 19th C.

Marnie 2 Marnie is sometimes said to have arisen as a pet-form of the Danish Marna-itself a form of MARINA-but evidence suggests that Marnie arose independently as a pet-form of Marina in the ESW too.'There were actually more baby girls called Marnie in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in England and Wales than there were those called Marna. The name was made better known by the 1964 film Marnie-based on a novel of the same name by Winston Graham. Var: Marni, Marny. Marpesia y In Greek mythology, Marpesia is the name of an Amazonian queen. Gr: marpto "to take hold of," "to seize," and "to catch." 20th C.

Marquis cc An English title, ranked between an earl and a duke. Anglo-Norman: marchis "marcher lord" (see March). It is also a surname, originally bestowed as a nickname. 19th C. Var: Marques, Marquez, Marquise. Fem: Marquessa.

Mars a' The Roman God of war. In the ancient world, he was equated with the Greek Ares, but his role within the Roman pantheon was considerably greater, and he was one of the Romans' most important deities, father of the twins Romulus and Remus, who founded Rome itself The wolfalso of deep significance to Rome-was regarded as his sacred animal. There is evidence to suggest that he was originally a God of vegetation-and he may be one and the same with both the Etruscan MARLS and Oscan MAMERS. An older form of his name is Mayors, which continued to be used in poetry. The etymology of his name is not entirely clear; if it derives from the Etruscan Maris, as some suggest, it makes it impossible to interpret, as Etruscan was almost certainly a non-Indo-European language, and not enough of it is known. However, if it is Latin, it may derive from the same PIE root as San: marici "ray of light," though a more persuasive source is PIE: *mer- "to die." Also associated with this root is L: marceo "to (cause to) wither" and "to (make) shrivel," and marcus "hammer." Another possibility is L: mas "male." All fairly appropriate for a very masculine God of war. To him in ancient times was allocated the firey, angry planet

Mars, and Tuesday in Latin was "Mars's day"-Martis dies. Unsurprisingly, the metal ascribed to him was iron. 19th C.

Marshall c' English surname. OF: mareschal "marshal" which was originally used of someone who looked after horses. It later became a title of high office, reflecting the importance of the horse in the medieval world. 16th C.

Martha Y Biblical name. Aramaic: "lady" and "mistress." "The biblical character spends the entirety of a visit by Jesus fussing about doing housework, which is why St. Martha-as she became-is the patron saint of housewives and servants. 16th C. Dim: MATTY, Patty. Hun: Marta, Ru: Marta, Cat, Cro, Cz, Est, It, Pol, Por, Rom, Sp: Marta, Scand: Marta, Gr, Scand: Martha, Fr: Marthe, Fin: Martta. Bearers: Martha Washington (1731-1802), the wife of George Washington; Martha Stewart (b. 1941), the American domesticity guru; Martha Corey (c. 1620s-1692), one of those tried and executed for Witchcraft during the Salem Witch trials of 1692-another victim was Martha Carrier.

Martial 9 English form of Latin Martialis "of MARS" as a substantive it was used to mean "priest of Mars." Used in particular of Marcus Valerius Martialis (c. 40-104 CE), the Roman poet especially noted for his pithy epigrams. 17th C.

Martin e English form of the Latin Martinus "belonging to MARS." It was used as a cognomen by Romans, and was most famously borne by the fourth-century St. Martin of Tours, for whose life contemporary evidence-albeit very biased-exists in the form a "Life" written by Sulpicius Severus. St. Martin (best known for giving half his cloak to a beggar-generous fellow) was an extremely popular saint. His feast day-November 11-is known as Martinmas. Used in Britain from the twelfth century, Martin was very common in the Middle Ages. Like many such names, it was taken into generic use: a martin monkey was a kind of monkey-exactly what is not known, as the term has been obsolete since the end of the seventeenth century. Since at least the early sixteenth century, however, "martin" has also been used for more than one type of bird, including the house martin and the sand martin. Dim: Marty. Jr Ga: Mairtin, Pol: Marcin, Dut: Maarten, Martijn, Sc Ga: Martainn, Sw: Marten, Cz, Fr, Ger, Rom, Rus, Sp: Martin, Port: Martinho, It: Martino, Hun: Marton, Fin: Martti, W: Martyn,

Dan: Morten. Bearers: Martin Luther (1483-1546), the man who sparked the Protestant Reformation; Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-68), the civil rights activist.

Martina Y Feminine form of MARTIN. It was the name of a third-century saint, who is the patron saint of Rome no doubt because her name is derived from MARS, who had-to all intents and purposes-been the city's patron God. 16th C. Dut: Maartje, Cro, Cz, Dut, Ger, It, Port, Scand, Spanish: Martina. Fr: Martine, Pol: Martyna. Bearers: Martina Navratilova (b. 1956), the Czech-born American tennis player; Martina Hingis (b. 1980), the Slovakian-born Swiss tennis player.

Marvin Most of Marvin's use represents an adoption of the surname and dates largely from the nineteenth century. With earlier examples it is more difficult to say whether it is an adoption of the surname, or a survival of one of the names which created it-there are two. OE: Merewine (mere "sea" and "ocean" + wine "friend") and Merefinn (mere + ON: Finn). There has also been much confusion and blending with MERVYN. Bearers: Marvin Gaye (1939-84), the American singer-songwriter; Marvin the Paranoid Android, a character in Douglas Adams's Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series (1979-92).

Marwenna ? A Cornish saint, another of Brychan Brycheiniog's many daughters. It is almost certainly a variant of MORWENNA. W: Marwyn. 20th C.

Mary 2 Mary is the principal English form of MARIA, the Latin form of Mariam, which was used in the Septuagint (the earliest Greek language version of the Bible). It was used to render the Hebrew MRYM at a time when no vowels were indicated in Hebrew. The Old Testament version of this name became MIRIAM when the vowels were finally added around the seventh century CE. Mary is probably the greatest example of how a name came to be used for what it represented rather than for what it meant-because its meaning isn't even known for certain. It may be Egyptian in origin, deriving from mr(i) "to love," "to desire," and "to wish." Or it may be Heb: mara "to be disobedient." It might be cognate with MARAH-and Egyptian offers other possible sources, such as mAr "wretched," mAir "miserable," mar "to be fortunate," and even mr "pyramid." St. Jerome

derived it from Heb: mabr "star" + yam "sea"-directly translating one of the Virgin Mary's best-known epithets-L: Stella Maris (filched from Isis). Mary (Miriam) was a very common name in Palestine in the first century CE, and it is borne by a number of biblical characters. The principal one is, of course, the mother of Jesus. Like her son, she has essentially become two entities. The first may or may not have existed as a historic person in Palestine roughly two thousand years ago; the second has become a deity. With the advent of Christianity, Mary took over the roles of the most popular Goddesses of the time-particularly Isis. In Catholicism, she largely still performs these roles. She acquired many of the titles which had once belonged to Goddesses, including "Queen of Heaven," "Star of the Sea," and "Holy Mother." Even the most popular image of Mary-holding the infant Jesus-is taken directly from Pagan images of Goddesses holding babies, particularly Isis and the baby Horns. As a given name, Mary arrived in the British Isles in the late eleventh century. An early bearer was a daughter of King Malcolm III of Scotland, who was born c. 1082. Over time, it has evolved many diminutive forms-including Malet, Malkyn, Mall, Mally, Malot, MARION, Mariot, Moll, MOLLY, Polly. Later Maidie, Mamie, MAY and MINNIE also entered the scene. Dut: Maaike, Marieke, Marijke, Marijse, Mieke, Miep (dim), Est, Fin: Maarika (dim), Fin: Maaria; Maija, Maikki, Marjukka, Marjut (dim), Est: Maarja, W: MAIR, Fr: Manette, MANON (dim), Ir Ga: MAIRE, Sc Ga: Mairi, Mhairi, Cro, Ger, Pol, Scand, Serb: Maja (dim), Mi'kmaq: Ma'li, Haw: MALIA, Basque: MARI, Ger, Mod Gr, It, Port, Rom, Scand: Maria, Sp: Maria; Maritza (dim), Hun, Slk: Maria, Cz, Dan, Fr, Ger, Nor: MARIE, Cro, Lat, Lith, Maltese, Serb: Marija, Cz, Slk, Est, Fin, Hun: Marika (dim), Hun: Mariska (dim), Dut, Fin, Ger, Sp: MARITA, Ru: Mariya, Marya; Masha (dim), Dut, Fin: Marja, Cz: Maruska (dim), Maori: Mere, Dut, Ger, Scand: MIA (dim), It: MIMI (dim), Ger: Mitzi (dim). Bearers: Queen Mary I of England (1516-58); Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-87); Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-97), the British writer and feminist-her daughter was Mary Shelley (1797-1851), author of Frankenstein (1818); Mary Norton (1903-92), author of The Borrowers series (1955-82); Mary Stewart (b. 1916) writer of historical fantasies such as The Crystal Cave series (1970-95); Mary Bateman (1768-1809), who earned the sobriquet "the Yorkshire Witch"-she was tried, convicted, and executed for fraud and murder rather than Witchcraft, but the case involved accusations of Witchcraft; Mary Parker

and Mary Eastey (1634-92) were among those executed for Witchcraft at Salem in 1692; Mary Trembles was one of the Bideford Witches executed in 1685-the last formal executions for Witchcraft in England. Mary Butters (1809-39), "the Carnmoney Witch" was tried for murder with a "herbal potion." Mary Poppins is the eponymous heroine of P.L. Travers's novels (1934-88).

Marzanna 2 Slavic Goddess. She presides over winter and death. Her name may derive from PIE: *mer- "to die." Alternatively, it may be from Pol: marznac "to freeze" or marzyc "to dream." In later Polish folklore, she was considered a daughter of a mara (see Mara), a creature strongly associated with dreams, so this is also plausible. She is equated with the Latvian Goddess Mara. Var: Morana, MORENA. Vestiges of her worship survive in Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the present day, celebrating the end of winter on March 21 by burning or drowning an effigy of Marzanna.

Marzena ? A curious Polish name. It is often said to be a diminutive form of MARIA or Malgorzata-the Polish form of MARGARET-but it is also used as a variant of MARZANNA.

Mason a' English surname. OF: mason "mason"-i.e. a man who cuts and shapes stone.' he word has become particularly associated with the Freemasons, a quasi-religious organization which began as a workers' guild in the Middle Ages, although the roots may date earlier-some trace them back to the Mystery religions of Pagan Greece and Rome. Certainly, whatever the truth of its origins, Freemasonry has influenced the modern Pagan movement. 16th C.

Matahari Y Malay: matahari "sun" < mata "eye" + hari "day." Made famous by the Dutch exotic dancer Mara Hari-born Margaretha Zelle (1876-1917)-famously shot for espionage during World War I.

Math e In the myths, Math fab Mathonwy is portrayed as the great lord of Gwynedd and a powerful worker of magic. He is the brother of the Goddess Don. He is almost certainly one and the same as the Irish Druid Math mac UmOir, and may even be one and the same with his own father, Mathonwy. In reality, Math is one of the major Gods of the Welsh pantheon-quite probably the Celtic God Matunus-their names are very

likely cognate, if nothing else. CC: *matu- "bear"-raising the intriguing possibility that Math may also be connected with Arthur-or CC: *mati "good." 19th C.

Mathra 2 e Avestan: matra- "magic formula."

Matilda 2 Latinized form of Old German Mahthildis-mahti "might" and "strength" + hildi "battle." It was brought to Britain by the Normans- Matilda of Flanders (c. 1031-83), was the queen of William the Conqueror. In the Middle Ages, the name was mostly used in the vernacular form MAUD. Matilda returned in the eighteenth century. Dim: MATTY, Tilda, Tilly; MADDY (hist). Var: Mahald, Mahalt, Mathild, Mathilda, Mathildis (hist). Dut: Machteld, Mechteld, It, Por: Mafalda; FALDA (dim), W: Mallt, Fr: Mathilde, Port, Sp: Matilde, Cz, Pot: Matyllda, Ger: Mechtilde. Bearers: Tilda Swinton (b. 1960), the British actress-born Katherine Mathilda Swinton; Matilda, a character in Horace Walpole's Gothic novel The Castle of Otranto (1764). Matilda (1988) is a children's book by Roald Dahl, made into a film of the same name in 1996.

Mato a Lakota: matho "bear."

Matthew a English form of Greek Matthias < Heb: Mattathiah "gift of Yahweh." St. Matthew-author of one of the Gospels-was a popular saint in the Middle Ages. Being biblical, Matthew continued in use after the Reformation, when the Greek form was also taken into use. Var: Mathew. Dim: Matt; MATTY (hist). It Ga: Maitiu, Cz: Matej, Matous, Sp: Mateo, Port: Mateus, Pol: Mateusz, Fr, Ger: Mathis, Dut, Fr: Mathys, It: Matteo, Scand: Matteus; Mats (dim), Ger: Matthaus, Dut, Fr, Ger: Matthias, Fr: Matthieu, Dut: Matthijs; Thijs (dim); Fin: Matti, Ru: Matvei, Matvey; Motya (dim); Hun: Matyas, Mate. Bearers: Matthew Hopkins (c. 1620-47), the infamous Witch-Finder General; Matthew Arnold (1822-88), the poet and educationalist.

Matty Y c Diminutive form of MATILDA, MARTHA, and MATTHEW. Var: Mattie. Bearers: Matty Groves, the ill-fated hero of the ballad "Marty Groves," collected by Childs and thought to date to at least the seventeenth century.

Matura 2 Roman Goddess of ripening crops and fruits. L: maturus "ripe," "mature," "timely," and therefore also "early." 19th C.

Matuta Y Roman Goddess of the dawn, regarded as one and the same with Aurora. Mater Matuta was also a name the Romans used for Inc. Proto-Latin: *ma-, from which L: mane "morning" and maturus "early" also evolved. 20th C.

Maud Y Maud is the usual form that MATILDA took during the Middle Ages in Britain, developing from the Medieval French form Mahault. Its use dwindled after the Middle Ages, though it lingered here and there—especially in Wales—until it was resurrected in the nineteenth century. Var: Maude; Mauld, Maulde, Mawde, Mawt, Mold, Molde (hist). Bearers: Princess Maud of Wales (1869-1938), one of the daughters of King Edward VII and later Queen of Norway; Maud Gonne (1866-1953), the Irish feminist and revolutionary, who was a member of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and is best known for being the muse of William Butler Yeats; Maud Moonshine, a Witch in Jill Murphy's Worst Witch series (1974-2007); Maud Bailey, a central character in AS. Byatt's novel Possession (1990). "Come Into the Garden, Maud" (1857), by Michael William Balfe, was one of the most popular songs of the Victorian era, based on Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem "Maud" (1855).

Mauger e Mauger is the Norman French form of Old German Madalgar-malvjan "to grind" or madal "place of judicial assembly" and "council" + ger "spear." The name gave rise to surnames such as Mauger and Major. In the seventeenth century, it was erroneously derived from ME: manure "ill-will." Var: Malger (hist).

Maugris cc The name of a hero and enchanter in the medieval Chansons de Geste, who was raised by a fairy called Oriande. His name is probably derived from MAUGER. Var: Maugis.

Maura Y Maura is usually treated as an Anglicization of Irish Gaelic MAIRE. However, it is borne by an alleged fourth-century saint who is always paired with a St. Britta. Nothing else is known about them, but it may be that they were Celts, in which case Maura's true origins probably lie

with the Celtic MOR, which Mary later Anglicized (and it is not beyond the realms of possibility that Britta is from Bridget). 19th C.

Maureen Y Anglicized form of Irish Gaelic Mairin, itself a diminutive form of MAIRE. Maureen-na-Laveen (1873) was a play by the Irish playwright Frederick Cooke, but it was John Todhunter's poem "Maureen" that was responsible for popularizing the name in the ESW in the early twentieth century. Dim: Mo. Bearers: Maureen Lipman (b. 1946), the British actress.

Maurice a' Maurice is the English and French form of Latin Mauritius, ostensibly meaning "belonging to Mauricus." Mauricus-meaning "of the Mauri"-was used as a cognomen in the Roman period. The Mauri were the inhabitants of the Roman province of Mauretania in North Africa. The third-century St. Maurice was reputed to be the leader of the fabled `Theban Legion, who were all said to have been martyred in 287 CE. Needless to say, there is no contemporary evidence whatsoever for what would have been an astonishing and noteworthy event, but that didn't stop the hagiographers. It is probably no coincidence that the Abbey of St. Maurice in Switzerland is built on the remains of a Roman temple to Mercury-and perhaps it is with Mercury that Maurice's name truly lies. St. Maurice was the patron saint of the Holy Roman Emperors, and was a popular saint in general in the medieval world.'The usual form of the name in the Middle Ages was Moris or Morris, and it was used in Ireland to render MURTAGH. Fin: Mauri, Port: Mauricio, Sp: Mauricio, It: Maurizio, W: MEURIG, Morus, Morys, Hun: Moric, Ger: Moritz, It Ga: Muiris. Maurice (1971) is a novel by E.M. Forster-begun in 1913.

Mauve Y ' French: mauve "mallow." It was first used in English in the early nineteenth century but in the late 1850s it was applied specifically to a newly synthesized dye, which was very fashionable in the early 1860s. Encountered as a given name as early as 1867, when a little girl was called Mauve Fox in Chesterfield, England.

Mavambo c? Shona: mavambo "beginning."

Maverick c' The etymology of the surname Maverick isn't entirely clear, but it is most likely a mangled form of MEURIG. It was famously borne by the American politician Samuel Augustus Maverick (1803-70), who, as

legend has it, refused to brand his cattle. Whether it is true or not, it is a fact that the first use of the word "maverick" denoted an unbranded calf or yearling. By the 1880s, it was being applied to someone who was unorthodox and independent-minded. Late 19th C.

Mavis 2 An old name for the song-thrush, first found in English in the early fifteenth century. MF: mauvis and malvis. It was popular in poetry, such as Burns's "Hark! 'The Mavis." Mavis Clare was a character in Marie Corelli's *The Sorrows of Satan* (1895)-although the name was in use prior to Corelli's book, most post-dates it. Bearers: Mavis Cruet, the hapless fat fairy in the British children's cartoon *Willa the Wisp* (1981).

Mavourneen Y Mavourneen began life as an Irish term of endearment, first noted in use in 1800; representing an Anglicization of *Jr Ga: mo mhuirnin* "my darling" and "my sweetheart." By the latter half of the century, it came into use as a name in the ESW-perhaps inspired by Frederick Crouch's song "Kathleen Mavourneen" (1837) and William J. Scanlan's novel *Mavourneen* (1891).

Mawar Y Indonesian name-mawar "rose." Mawar also means "rose" in Malay.

Mawgan c ? St. Mawgan is one of Cornwall's many shadowy saints. The origin of the name is not entirely clear; in English he is also known as MORGAN, and it may be that Mawgan is simply a corruption, although where the "r" has gone is puzzling. It is possible that the first element is W: mawl "praise" < CC: *mol-f-. The second element may be the same as Morgan-CC: *kanto- "circle," or perhaps as Hafgan-W: can "song. 19th C. Var: Meugan.

Max c~ Max was originally a short form of MAXIMILIAN; now it may also be encountered as short for MAXWELL or even MAXIMUS. 19th C. Bearers: Max Weber (1881-1961), the Russian-born American artist; Max Mallowan (1904-78)-born Edgar-the British archaeologist; Max Rockatansky, the hero of the 1979 film *Mad Max* and its sequels; Max Dennison, a character in the film *Hocus Pocus* (1993).

Maximian o' English form Latin Maximianus "belonging to MAXIMUS." It is the usual name by which the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximianus Herculus (c. 250- 310 CE) is known. It is also the name of more than one early saint. It: Massimiano, Port, Sp: Maximiano.

Maximilian a Folklore says that Maximilian was created by the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick III for his son, by combining the names of two Romans he admired-namely Quintus Fabius Maximus Cunctator (d. 203 BCE) and Publius Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus (185-129 BCE). There was also a Quintus Fabius Maximus Aemilianus, consul in 145 BCE, and it is possible the name was intended to be a telescoping of his cognomina-Maximus Aemilianus. The baby so named went on to rule as Maximilian I (1459-1519), and there is no doubt that the spread of Maximilian as a given name-first in Germany and then elsewhere-is down to the Hapsburgs. However, there was an obscure third-century saint called Maximilianus, although he doesn't appear in the records until the ninth century. His name meant "belonging to Maximillus." Maximillus is a diminutive of MAXIMUS. Dim: MAX. Fr: Maximilien, It: Massimiliano, Ru: Maksimilian. Bearers: Maximilien Robespierre (1758-94), the French revolutionary.

Maximus c? Latin: maximus "greatest." Maximus was used as a cognomen in Roman times-most notably by members of the aristocratic gens Fabia. Magnus Maximus (c. 335-388)-whose full name is not known-was one of a number of rival Roman Emperors between 383 and 385 CE, who is remembered in Welsh legend as Maccsen Wledig. Maximus Tiranus (fl. 409-411) was another pretender to the imperial throne. There was never, however, anyone with the garbled name Maximus Decimus Meridius-the name of the hero of the American film *Gladiator* (2000), who is responsible for raising the name's profile since the new millennium. 16th C. Fem: Maxima. It: Massimo, Ru: Maxim, Maksim, Rom: Maxim, Fr: Maxime, Sp: Maximo, W: MACSEN. Bearers: Maxim Gorky (1868-1936), the Russian writer.

Maxine 2 French feminine form of MAX. Used in the ESW since the early twentieth century. Bearers: Maxine Sanders (b. 1947), the influential British Alexandrian Wiccan, and widow of Alex Sanders.

Maxwell c? Scottish surname deriving from a salmon pool called Maxwell on the River Tweed near Kelso, a combination of Maccus (see Mack) + OE: wella "stream" and "spring." 17th C. Dim: MAX. Bearers: (James) Maxwell Anderson (1888-1959), the American playwright.

May Y May arose as a pet-form of MARY and MARGARET in the late eighteenth century, but quickly became associated with the month. A handful of early examples also occur of May used as a given name for boys, representing adoption of the surname May. This derived either from OE: may "male relative," "young lad," and "maiden," or as a short form of MATTHEW. The month of May-deriving its name from the goddess MAIA-is one of the most significant of the year. It begins with the Celtic cross-quarter feast of Beltane, still kept in Britain as May Day. May is a month strongly associated with Witches-May 1 is also St. Walpurgis's Day (see Walburga). For the Romans, May was sacred to Maia and to Flora; the Floralia festival straddled May Day, beginning of April 27 and ending on May 3. In current usage, May is used most as a second name and in combinations-Ellie-May being a particular favorite. Var: Maye, Mae, MAI. Bearers: Mary of Teck (1867-1953), the wife of King George V, who was called May by her family; Louisa May Alcott (1832-88), the American novelist; Mae West (1893-1980), the American actress-whose birth name was Mary Jane.

Maya ? Maya's adoption as a given name in the twentieth century was almost certainly inspired by MAY and MAIA, and to some extent can be regarded as just a spelling variation of them. In the minds of some, however, is the Mayan civilization, which flourished in the first millennium CE; the origin of its name is unknown. It came into English directly from the Spanish, and it is believed that it was used by the Maya to designate themselves. Maya is also an Indian girl's name-San: maya "trick," "unreality," "phantom," "apparition," "magical power," and "illusion." It features as an important concept in Hinduism and Buddhism-that life is an illusion. Maya is also another name for the Goddess Durga. Bearers: Maya Angelou (b. 1928), the American novelist and poet, who was born Marguerite Ann Johnson.

Mayang 2 Malaysian name. Malay: mayang "virgin."

Mayflower Y MAY + FLOWER. Mayflower is an old alternative name for any plant which flowers in the month of May-such as the primrose, marsh marigold and cowslip. It should not be confused with May blossom, which is similarly vague, but can refer specifically to the flowers of the hawthorn. The Mayflower is famous as the name of the ship most

associated with the Pilgrims or Pilgrim Fathers-the early colonists to what would become the USA. 19th C.

Maynard cf Old English: Maegenheard-m&gen "strong" + heard "hardy." It was reinforced by the Norman French Mainard, which derived from the cognate Old German Maganhard. Bearers: John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946), the British economist.

Mayowa f Y Nigerian name. Yoruba: "comes with joy" < ayo "joy." Dim: Mayo.

Mazadan cf According to Wolfram von Eschenbach, Mazadan was the fairy great-grandfather of King Arthur. It may derive from ARAMAZD.

Mazaltra Y Old High German: mazaltra "maple."

Mazarine ? c~ A rich, deep shade of blue, named in the late seventeenth century after Hortense Mancini, Duchess of Mazarin, the mistress of King Charles II. Mazarin was the French form of Italian Mazarino, the surname of Hortense's uncle, Cardinal Mazarin-Mazarino is a diminutive of Mazzaro, an Italian surname meaning "mace-bearer." 19th C. Var: Mazareen.

Mazatl y Mexican name. Nahuatl: mazatl "deer."

Mbamba Y Shona: mbamba "cowrie-shell."

Mbambo f Y Shona: mbambo "charm"-referring specifically to a protective charm for a village.

McKenna Y cf Scottish surname, the Anglicization of the Gaelic MacCionaodha "son of Cionaodh." Cionaodh is a variant of Cinaed (see

Kenneth). In the nineteenth century, McKenna was largely used for boys; its use as a girl's name is mostly twentieth-century. Var: Mackenna, Makenna, MAKENA, Kenna.

Mead f' ? Mead has become the unofficial official Pagan beverage (closely followed by real ale and cider). It certainly has the credentials; the word traces comfortably back to Proto-Indo-European roots, and while the details of the recipe may have changed over the millennia, mead remains mead-a sacred drink amongst the Celts. Brewed from honey, it shares all of honey's significance. The surname Mead has a different source-it is essentially cognate with MEADOW. 17th C. Var: Meade.

Meadow 2 c? 'The English "meadow" derives from the earlier "mead"; the word is connected with others which have senses such as "mow," hinting at the antiquity of meadows- i.e. fields permanently given over to grass and wild flowers for hay. As such, they have always been valuable habitats for wildlife, and have long been celebrated in art and poetry for being symbolic of Nature, the feral, and fertility. Unfortunately, in the twentieth century, many European farmers decided to ignore millennia of practice, and tear up the meadows-with disastrous results. Even though meadows are now returning, the damage has been done and countless species are at risk.'The surname Meadow was originally used of someone who lived by a meadow. Largely used only for boys and as a middle name between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, it has recently seen more use for girls, often in combinations such as Meadow Lark and Daisy Meadow. Bearers: Meadow Soprano, a character in the American television series The Sopranos (1999-2007).

Meadowsweet Y MEADOW + SWEET. An earlier name was "meadsweet"-this may simply be "mead" (the older form of "meadow"), but may be MEAD, as its blossoms are not just honey-sweet, but have long been used as a flavoring. It is known that meadowsweet was one of the three herbs held most sacred by Druids in ancient times (the others being vervain and water-mint). Meadowsweet is one of the flowers which Math and Gwydion used to fashion Blodeuedd as a bride for Lleu. Its association with the Goddess is preserved in country names such as lady of the meadow, queen of the meadow, and bridewort. In the past, it was a favorite

herb for strewing on the floors of houses, due to its strong and delicious scent. Salicylic acid-from which aspirin is made-was first isolated from meadowsweet in 1838, reflecting meadowsweet's long history of use in herbal medicine as a pain-killer. It is also used for heartburn and for treating peptic ulcers. It is ruled by Venus or Jupiter and Air, and used magically in matters relating to love and peace. Var: Meadow Sweet. 21st C.

Mealla Y Traditional Irish Gaelic name. It was borne by a sister of St. Kevin, among others. Most likely 01: mell "mild" and "pleasant." Var: Meall, Mell, Mella.

Meallan e Meallan probably derives from the same source as MEALLA-i.e. 01: mell "mild" and "pleasant" + dim. suffix -an. Alternatively, it may derive from 01: mell "lump" and "knob"-the Irish meallan "hail" probably derives from this. More than one early saint bears the name. Var: Mellan.

Medea 2 The semi-divine daughter of Aeetes, King of Colchis and granddaughter of the God Helios, Medea the sometime wife of Greek heroes Jason, Aegeus, and Creon-is one of the most famous Witches of all time. She is immortalized in Euripides's play Medea (431 BCE), in which-despite the fact she commits the horrific murder of a young woman and her own two sons-the audience is still glad that she gets her revenge on the self-serving Jason. Gr: medos "plans," "schemes," and "arts"-all of which carry notions of cunning; her name can be understood to mean "she of the cunning schemes or arts." 19th C.

Medi Y Welsh: Medi "September." 19th C. Related is Medeni-" September-born."

Medicus e Epithet of Apollo. L: medicus "the doctor." 19th C.

Medora Y A name invented by Byron for the heroine of The Corsair (1814). The same year, it was bestowed upon Elizabeth Medora Leigh (1814-49), widely believed to be Byron's illegitimate daughter by his half-sister, Augusta Leigh.

Meg Y Old short form of MARGARET. It was very common in the late medieval and early modern period. Long Meg and her Daughters is the name given to an important stone circle in Cumbria, England, which dates to the Bronze Age. In more than one version of the legend surrounding how they came to be, Meg and her daughters are said to have been Witches. This later led to Meg being identified with a seventeenth-century Witch known as Meg of Meldon in Northumberland-a well-to-do woman called Margaret Selby, who was noted for being a Witch and became a famous ghost. A tale is told of a man who did not believe in ghosts, who decided to dress up and pretend to be Meg. He sat on the bridge famed for her apparitions, ready to scare passersby-only to find Meg herself sitting beside him. "You've come to fley (scare people)," she said, "and I've come to fley; let's baith fley together!"

Megan Y Welsh diminutive of MARGARET. 19th C. Var: Meagan, Meghan-both English variants.

Megrez c~ 2 The name of a star in Ursa Major. Ar: maghraz "socket" and "base"-referring to the star's position at the base of the bear's tail.

Megumi Y Japanese name-megumi "blessing," "grace," "mercy," and "kindness."

Mehefin Y Welsh: Mehefin "June." Early 20th C. Var: Mefin.

Mehetabel Y Biblical name of Aramaic origin. The last element is el meaning "(a) God" and the first derives from a root which gives meanings such as "treats well," "makes happy," and "benefits," etc. 16th C.

Mehr c? Mehr is the name of the seventh month of the Iranian calendar, corresponding to the sign of Libra. It is also the Modern Persian form of MITHRAS. As a result, it is often translated as "sun" in the many compound names which contain mehr as an element, such as the girls' names Mehry and Mehrnaz (mehr + naz "affection"), and the boys' names Mehrzad (which is usually translated as "child of the sun," but might be more authentically translated as "child of Mithras"), Mehrdad "gift of the sun/Mithras," and Mehrak "little sun/Mithras."

Mei Y Chinese name. Mand: mei "plum blossom"; mei "rose"; mei "strawberry"; mei "beautiful"; mei "dawn"; mei "magic."

Meilani Y Hawaiian: Mei "(month of) May" (a loan word from English) + lani "heaven' and "sky." Possibly coined as a variant of MELANIE. 20th C.

Meili Y Chinese name. Mand: MEI + li "beautiful."

Meillion 2 Welsh: meillion "clover."

Meilyr c? Old Welsh name, borne by a twelfth-century poet. The etymology is uncertain, but it may possibly be a combination of MAI and LLYR, giving it the meaning "May sea"-perhaps a reference to the return of favorable sailing conditions. It may also be the name behind MELIOR. Early 20th C. Var: Meilir, Mylor.

Meilys ? Welsh name-MAI + llys "plant." Early 20th C.

Meinir y Welsh name-meinir "maiden." Late 19th C.

Meirion c~ Meirion was allegedly borne by a grandson of Cunedda in the fifth and sixth centuries, who gave his name to Meirionnydd-the historic county of Merionethshire in Wales. Meirion is said to derive from Latin Marianus "belonging to MARIUS." However, it may be from Latin Marinus "of the sea." "This could be a Roman cognomen, but equally it could refer to an area, and Meirionethshire boasts strong links to the sea-even to this day its motto is tra mor tra Meirion "Merioneth will be as long as the sea will be." It may be that in Meirion and Meirionydd we have a chicken and egg situation; Meirion may actually be the "hero" invented to explain the name of a region, rather than being the source of the region's name. 19th C.

Meissa Y The traditional name of Lambda Orionis, a star in Orion. Ar: mahis "shining" and "glittering." 20th C.

Melanie Y Anglicized form of French Melanie < Latin Melania-the name of pair of early saints who are said to be mother and daughter. Gr: melania "blackness" < melas "black." Melainis-derived from melaina, the feminine

form of melas-is an epithet of Aphrodite, and Melania was the name of a Greek festival of Dionysus. Introduced into the South-West of England in the seventeenth century from France, it spread to the rest of the ESW in the nineteenth century. Dim: Mel. Var: Melany, Mellany, Melloney, Mellony, Melanie, and Melony. It, Pol, Ro, Sp: Melania. Bearers: Melanie Wilkes is a major character in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* and largely responsible for the name's use in the latter twentieth century.

Melantha 2 A seventeenth-century adaptation of Melantho, a minor figure of Greek Mythology. The name also occurs in Homer's *Odyssey*. Gr: melanthes "black." Melantha was used by John Dryden in his play *Marriage a la Mode* (1673). 19th C.

Melati Y Indonesian and Malaysian name. Indonesian/ Malay: melati "jasmine."

Melchior Gc One of the legendary Three Wise Men who wished to visit the infant Jesus. Heb: "king of light." 16th C.

Melchisadek c~ Biblical name. Heb: "king of righteousness." 16th C.

Meleager c Greek: meleos "unhappy" + agros "field" or "country"-perhaps a reference to the outcome of Meleager's famous hunt-Meleager is a hero in Greek mythology. The Fates turned up shortly after his birth and told his mother that her son would live until the log then burning on the fire was consumed. His mother immediately took it off the fire and put it carefully away. Years later, Meleager and his uncles hunted the famous Calydonian boar, along with the huntress Atalanta-with whom Meleager was in love. After they succeeded in killing the boar, Meleager gave its head to Atalanta, and when his uncles tried to take it from her, he killed them. When his mother found out, she threw the log onto the fire, and sure enough, when it had burnt out, Meleager expired. 20th C.

Meleri Y Welsh: intensifying prefix my- + ELERI. In Welsh legend, it was the name of the wife of the fifth-century war-leader Cunedda. 20th C.

Meli y Hawaian: meli "bee."

Melantha y Greek: meli "honey" + anthos "flower." Melianthus is the botanical name for the honey-flower.

Melicertes (3 The original name of the sea God Palaemon. His mother Ino, driven mad by Hera because she dared to look after the infant Dionysus, boiled him alive in a cauldron. When Ino realized what she had done, she jumped into the sea with his body. Zeus took pity on her, and turned them both into sea deities. Ostensibly, Melicertes's name derives from Gr: meli "honey" + kerdos "gain" and "profit." However, it is likely that it is actually the Hellenized form of MELQART.

Melina 2 Principally a Modern Greek name-meli "honey." However, Melina occurs in the ESW as early as the seventeenth century, when it probably represented a variant of MELANIE. It featured as a surname in Goethe's Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship (1795-96), which may have encouraged its use in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Melina Havelock, a character in the James Bond film For Your Eyes Only (1981).

Melinda Y Melinda first seems to have been used in the early eighteenth century by the English poet Anne Finch in her poem "Melinda on an Insippid Beauty." It is almost certainly a simple reworking of BELINDA, with the Belreplaced with Mel- suggestive of L: mel "honey." Used ever since. Dim: Mindie, Mindy. Mindy was a central character in the American sitcom Mork and Mindy (1978-82).

Melior 2 A Cornish and Devon name. The church at Linkinhorne is dedicated to a saint, who is male in some accounts, female in others, sometimes called Melior, sometimes Meliora. Melior and Meliora also feature in medieval French literature as the name of a sister of Melusine. Both point to a Celtic source, and it is possible-likely even-that the name is cognate with the Welsh MEILYR or MELERI, and thus ELERI, whose gender (like Melior's) is also sometimes ambiguous. Indeed, there are variant spellings which crop up from time to time which are spine-tinglingly close to Meleri, such as a child baptized Mellery in Devon in 1555. The "i" probably crept in from association with L: melior "better" (which is etymologically unrelated). Var: Melor, Mylor, Melora.

Melisande 2 Variant of MILLICENT or MELUSINA used in Maurice Maeterlinck's play *Pelleas et Melisande* (1893). It was highly influential and later had incidental music written for it by Faure (1898) and Sibelius (1905). In 1902, it was turned into an opera by Debussy. 20th C.

Melissa Y Greek: melissa "bee." The name of a nymph, credited with inventing the art of keeping bees, as well as the name of a daughter of a Cretan king, who assisted Amalthea in caring for the infant Zeus. Melissa is also the botanical name for the lemon balm. 17th C. Dim: Mel, Lissa. Bearers: Melissa Joan Hart (b. 1976), the American actress, best known for playing Sabrina in the American television series *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* (1996-2003); Melissa, a Witch in Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*. Melissa also features in Lord Tennyson's poem "The Princess" (1847), and in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Princess Ida* (1884), inspired by the poem.

Melita Y Latin name of the island of Malta, which is said to be named after a sea-nymph. Gr: Melite < melito "to be sweetened with honey." 18th C. Bearers: Princess Victoria Melita of Edinburgh (1876-1936), the granddaughter of Queen Victoria; Melita, a Witch in Cate Tiernan's *Balefire* series (2005-06)-although used as a short form of Carmelita (see Carmen).

Mellida Y A late sixteenth-century literary coinage, used by John Marston in his plays *Antonio and Mellida* (1599) and *Antonio's Revenge* (1601). It was presumably intended as a cross between MELISSA and PHYLLIDA. Late 17th C.

Melody Y Old French: melodic "song," "music," and "tune" < Late L: melodia "song," "singing," "tune," and "tunefulness" < Gr: meloidia "singing," "chanting," and "music" < melos "phrase" and "song" + oide "song" and "ode." 18th C.

Melpomene Y One of the Muses in Greek mythology. Melpomene is usually considered the Muse of tragedy (i.e. plays). Gr: melpomene "celebrating with song" < melpomai "to celebrate with song." Late 19th C.

Melgart c~ Phoenician God. He is equated with Eshmun and is probably an aspect of Baal. Phoenician: mlk "king" + qrt "city." Var: Melkart, Melkarth. Gr: MELICERTES.

Melusine Y The name of an otherworldly creature in European mythology, a type of water-spirit or freshwater mermaid, who is often portrayed as half-woman and halffish or half-serpent-sometimes even half-dragon. She features frequently in medieval literature, such as Jean d'Arras *Le Roman de Melusine* (1393). The etymology is very, very uncertain, and the name has been much confused with Millicent over the centuries. What is known about her is that she was considered the ancestress of the House of Lusignan-its members later became kings of Jerusalem and Cyprus. The family took their name from the town of Lusignan in France, the inhabitants of which to this day are called Melusins and Melusines. Unfortunately, the origins of the name Lusignan are not clear either, but it is plausibly suggested that it derives from LUGUS. As ancestress of the House of Lusignan, Melusine is the Mere Lusignan-"Mother Lusignan"-and perhaps here we have an explanation of the name: mere becoming me- (not without precedent) and merged with the name of the town. Melusina, Melusine, and Melesina are found in Germany from at least the sixteenth century, and have been used in the ESW since the eighteenth century. Bearers: Petronilla Melusina von der Schulenburg (1693- 1778), the illegitimate daughter of King George I.'The legend of Melusine features in A.S. Byatt's novel *Possession* (1990).

Melvin cc Scottish surname, deriving from Melville in Midlothian. It got its name from a Norman baron called Geoffrey de Mallaville, who came from Emalleville in Normandy.'This derives from the Old English personal name Smala (there were quite a few Anglo-Saxons in Normandy) + OF: ville. Smala probably derives from OE: smeel "small." 17th C. Dim: Mel. Var: Melvyn.

Melyn y Welsh: melyn "yellow." 20th C.

Memento y The imperative of L: memini "to remember"- i.e. "remember!" It features in the expression memento mori "remember that you die." It was a common motif in art in the medieval and early modern period, with skeletons and skulls frequently adorning frescoes, paintings, and sculpture. Lesser known is memento vivere "remember to live," an exhortation to enjoy life and make each day count. Chiefly, "memento" is used today to mean "souvenir." 19th C.

Memnon Gc In Greek mythology, Memnon was the name of an Ethiopian prince; the name was later used of some of the colossal statues of Pharaohs in Egypt. Gr: meno "to remain," "to abide," "to stand fast," "to be steadfast," and "to be resolute." Memnon therefore means "the steadfast" or "the resolute." 19th C.

Memoria y Latin: memoria "remembrance" and "memory." 18th C.

Memory Y Latin: MEMORIA. Memory is one of those abilities both mundane and marvelous, practical and whimsical. Memory is one of the things that makes us human, the workhorse of learning and knowledge, an essential tool in our working and social lives. It is one of the few possessions most of us take with us to our lives' end, a treasure chest added to each day. For some, memories may even survive death, to be recalled in later lives. And in our memories those we love who have died, live on. Early 19th C.

Memphis Y 9 The Greek form of Men-nefer, one of the Egyptian names of the city of Memphis in Egypt. Mennefer-Pepi was originally the name of the nearby pyramid of the Pharaoh Pepi I, which was later applied to its nearby settlement. Egyptian: mn "to suffer," "to endure," and "to remain" + nefer "beautiful"-usually translated as "Pepi's beauty remains." On its own, Mennefer could be understood to mean "beauty remains" or "the beautiful one remains." In Antiquity, men was taken to stand for Menes, the Greek form of the name of a semi-mythical Egyptian pharaoh, founder of the first dynasty. His name in Egyptian was actually MENI, though it does still derive from mn. In Greek mythology, Memphis was said to be a daughter of the Nile, for whom the city was named by her husband Epaphus, a son of To by Zeus, and king of Egypt.'The association of Memphis, Tennessee, with Elvis Presley is responsible for much of the name's current use. 19th C.

Menai Y The name of the straits between Anglesey and the mainland.'The name is almost certainly etymologically related the Welsh name for Anglesey-Mon (see Manannan and Mona).The Menai Suspension Bridge, built in 1826 by `Thomas Telford, is one of the oldest suspension bridges in the world. Late 19th C.

Menelaus e In Greek mythology, Menelaus was King of Sparta, the brother of the most powerful man in the Greek world-Agamemnon, and husband of the most beautiful woman-Helen. The former proved very handy when he decided to rescue the latter-after she was abducted (or ran off with) Prince Paris of Troy. Gr: meno "to remain," "to abide," "to stand fast," "to be steadfast," and "to be resolute" + laos "people"-traditionally translated as "abiding men." It is possible that the first element of the name was originally Gr: menos "impulse," "will," "strength," and "might," but that his name was altered by the bards to emphasize Menelaus's reliance on others to get his wife back. 19th C.

Menelik c~ Ethiopian name. It was borne by a legendary Ethiopian king, said to be the son of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, and is traditionally said to have developed from the equivalent of Arabic Ibn al-Hakim "son of the wise one."

Menna Y Welsh name, used by the Welsh poet John Ceiriog Hughes in the nineteenth century. Where Hughes acquired the name is not entirely clear; it may have been conceived as a short form of MORWENNA, or coined from W: menyw "woman." Late 19th C. Dim: Men, Menw.

Merab Y Biblical name. Heb: merab "abundant" and "plentiful." 17th C.

Merah Y c~ Malay: merah "red," "red-head," and "aflake."

Meraud 2 A medieval name confined to Devon and Cornwall. It has often been assumed to be a shortened form of ME: emeraud "emerald," but this is unlikely. Meraud probably evolved from-or is cognate with-Welsh MORFYDD. Revived early 20th C. Bearers: Meraud Guinness (1904-93), the artist and wife of the Chilean painter, Alvaro Guevara.

Mercedes Y Spanish name from the title of the Virgin Mary: Nuestra Senora de las Mercedes "Our Lady of Mercies." Used in the ESW from the nineteenth century, mostly by Catholics. Mercedes "Mercy" Thompson is the heroine of Patricia Briggs's Mercy Thompson novels (2006-). The French version Mercedes is the name of the heroine of Alexandre Dumas's The Count of Monte Cristo (1844-46). The name is now largely associated with the German car brand.

Mercury c~ Y The Roman God equated with the Greek Hermes. In Rome, however, there was greater emphasis placed upon his aspect as God of commerce and merchants, and this may have been the role of the primitive Mercury before he merged with Hermes. His name is formed from the same Latin stem merc- from which also derive words such as mercator "merchant," mercor "to trade" and merces "price," "hire," "bribe," "fee," "salary," and "reward." The Roman writer Tacitus recorded that Mercury was the chief God of the Germanic tribes, which has led to his identification with Odin. Among the Celts, he was identified principally with Lugus-although his name is linked with several other Celtic deities in inscriptions across the Roman Empire. The planet Mercury was named after him in ancient times, which led to his name also being used for a day of the week-surviving in Fr: Mercredi and W: Mercher. In ancient times, the planets also had correspondences with metals; Mercury is the only one where the correspondence is preserved in the metal's name, which is also known as quicksilver. From as early as the eighth century, the metal mercury came to play an important role in alchemy, as much as a principle as an actual metal. It was believed to be present in all metals, a theory not abandoned until the eighteenth century. Mercury has been in use as both a male and female name since the nineteenth century-its use as a girl's name is presumably with reference to the planet or the metal.

Mercutio cc A character in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, deriving from MERCURY. 20th C.

Mercy Y French: merci < L: merces "price," "hire," "bribe," "fee," "salary," and "reward"-in later Latin, it acquired the additional meanings of "grace," "favor," and "pity." By the thirteenth century, when "mercy" first appears in English, it had acquired its usual English meanings of clemency and compassion. 16th C. Bearers: Mercy Lewis, one of the accusers at the Salem Witch Trials in 1692, who appears as a character in Arthur Miller's The Crucible (1953).

Meredith Y Anglicized form of the traditional Welsh name Maredudd, used in Wales since at least the tenth century. The Old Welsh form was Morgetiud. CC: *mfro "great" + *katu- "battle," or *mrogi- "border" + OW: iud(d) "lord." Meredith itself occurs from the fifteenth century or so

onwards, and was also used in the Marches and the West Country. Since the seventeenth century, much of its use has represented the adoption of the surname derived from it, and since the nineteenth century, it has increasingly been used as a girl's name outside Wales, probably inspired by other female names ending in -ith such as Edith. Dim: Bedo (W); MERRY. Var: Meredyth; Merith Y.

Merewina 2 Medieval form of Old English Maerwynn- mter "famous" + Wynn "joy," "rapture," and "delight." Var: Merewin, Merewen, Meriwenna; St. Meriwenna was an Anglo-Saxon saint of the late tenth century.

Meriadoc f Conan Meriadoc is the legendary founder of Brittany. Meriadoc features in Cornish legend as Meriasek. Most likely it is a diminutive of Moriud, the oldest known form of MORYDD. Breton: Meriadeg, Fr: Meriadec. Bearers: Meriadoc "Merry" Brandybuck, a hobbit in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.

Meridian c~ Y Meridian's original meaning in English was "the south," "midday," and "noon." For some reason, in the early fifteenth century, it was also used as a name for "the Devil." It is now used principally to refer to a notional circle which passes through both poles and the celestial meridian, being the line crossed by the sun at noon. Since 1884, the prime meridian-from which all world time is calculatedhas been set running through the Greenwich Observatory in London; hence "Greenwich Mean Time."The noun "meridian" is also used to mean "pinnacle of perfection" and "culmination." L: meridianum "midday." 19th C.

Merioneth Y Gi Anglicized form of Meirionnydd-the name of a historic region of Wales. It derives from MEIRION.20th C.

Merle Y A poetic word for the blackbird. Anglo-Norman: merle < L: MERULA. Late 19th C. Bearers: Merle Oberon (1911-79), the English actress, whose birth name was Estelle Merle 'Thompson.

Merlin ' 2 English form of MYRDDIN. The Latin Merlinus was used in Geoffrey of Monmouth's Prophetiae Merlini (bef. 1135). Merlin features again in his Historia Regum Britanniae (c. 1136), and was deemed sufficiently important to have a work all of his own-the Vita Merlini (c.

1150). It is thought that it was Geoffrey himself who devised the Latin form Merlinus from the Welsh Myrddin, choosing it over the more obvious Latinized form *Merдинus in order to avoid any derivation from-or association with L: merda "dung" and "excrement." There is some evidence that the name was used in the Middle Ages, and is possibly behind the surnames Marlin and Marling. It has certainly been in use since at least the seventeenth century. Merlin is also the name of a type of small falcon. Its name derives from Anglo-Norman: merilun < esmerilun, a diminutive of esmeril and cognate with OG: smerle "merlin." Exactly where it came

from before this, however, is unknown. It is the bird which is responsible for Merlin used as a girl's name since the twentieth century. Var: Merlyn.

Meroe Y The name of a (wicked) Witch in Lucius Apuleius's second-century novel The Golden Ass. It is also the name of an ancient city on the Nile, which was the capital of the Kingdom of Kush, and it is probable that this is the source of the name of the Witch. 19th C. Var: Meroe.

Merope Y Feminine form of MEROPS. There is more than one Merope in Greek mythology; the most significant is one of the Pleiades-usually considered the faintest of the seven stars, the one which is barely visible with the naked eye. Legend has it that she grew so faint because of her shame that she alone of the sisters married a mortal. 19th C. Bearers: Merope Gaunt Riddle, the mother of Lord Voldemort in the Harry Potter series.

Merops c? A number of minor characters in Greek mythology. Gr: merops "bee-eater"-a type of bird; it was used to mean "mortal."

Merry c? y Principally a pet-form of names such as MEREDITH and MERCY. There is also the surname Merry ME: mirie and merie "merry." Some of its use may be the adjective itself. 19th C.

Merryn (' 2 A Cornish saint, after whom St. Merryn's is named. Probably the Cornish form of MORIEN. Late 19th C. Var: Merin.

Mersey Y c? A famous English river. The east bank of its estuary is home to the city of Liverpool. OE: mare "boundary" and "border" + ea "river." It is

found as a given name for males and females from the nineteenth century, though in some cases it may represent a variant spelling of MERCY. Immortalized by the song "Ferry Cross the Mersey" (1964) by Gerry and the Pacemakers.

Mert c3' Turkish name-mert "brave," "manly," "trustworthy," and "dependable."

Merula Y Latin: merula "blackbird."

Mervyn c' Y Mervyn is a curious name, found in the Middle Ages in forms such as Merefyn, Merefynnus, Mervinus, Merwyn, and Murfyn. Some of these are English and derive like MARVIN from the Old English names Merewine "sea- friend" and Merefynn "sea-Finn," but others are Welsh, and Mervyn was mostly confined to Wales until the nineteenth century, making it unlikely-though not impossible-that it derives from the English names. Merfyn is the "correct" Welsh form. It is often said to be a form of MYRDDIN, although an example of Merfyn is found as early as the ninth century, which suggests a different origin-possibly from W: merf "weal" and "insipid," or mawr "great" + myn "kid" and "little goat." Since the seventeenth century, it has been reinforced by the use of the surname, accounting for its occasional use as a girl's name, such as the British politician (Irene) Mervyn Pike (1918-2004). Bearers: Mervyn Peake (1911-68), the British novelist.

Mery Y Ancient Egyptian: mrj "beloved"-an element which featured in many Egyptian names, such as Mery-Re "beloved of RA" and Mery-Ptah "beloved of PTAH."

Mesmer c? German surname, a variant of Mesner < mesner "sexton," "sacristan," and "verger." Friedrich Anton Mesmer (1734-1815) was an Austrian doctor made famous by the hypnotic technique he developed and employed, which he called "animal magnetism." The English "mesmeric," "mesmerize," etc., derive from his name. 19th C.

Messalina 2 Feminine form of the Roman cognomen Messalla, associated with the patrician gens Valeria. Its most famous member was Valeria Messalina (c. 17-48 CE), the wife of the emperor Claudius. The name was

said to be a corruption of Messana-another name for the city of Messina in Sicily-bestowed upon a member of the family who had captured the city in the early third century BCE. Messana itself was reputedly named after the Greek Messene, a district around the town of Pherae (the Greek city of Messene was actually founded about a century after the Sicilian town got its name). The etymology is very uncertain, though it may possibly be from Gr: mesos "middle." 17th C. Var: Messallina.

Metella Y Feminine form of the Latin cognomen Metellus, used particularly by the gens Caecilia. The bestknown bearer was Caecilia Metella (fl. 69 BCE) whose magnificent tomb on the Appian Way outside Rome survives to this day. Metellus was said to have originally meant "hired servant," but evidence is scanty-metella did mean "basket"-specifically a basket full of stones thrown down onto heads of besiegers. 18th C.

Meteor c? Today, the word "meteor" is most associated with shooting stars-an association which dates back to the sixteenth century. It was originally used, however, of a treatise on astronomical phenomena, inspired by Aristotle's fourth-century BCE treatise on Astronomy-Meteora. Gr: meteoros "lifted off the ground," "high in the air," and "lofty." 19th C.

Methuselah c? Biblical name. Heb: "man of the javelin." In the Bible, Methuselah is the oldest of the old, said to have lived for 969 years. Hence the expression, "as old as Methuselah," which dates to the fourteenth century. 16th C.

Metin c? Turkish name-metin "strong" and "durable." When used of people, metin refers more to strength of character than physical strength.

Metis Y Greek: metis "advice," "wisdom," "skill," and "craft." Metis was one of the Titans. She is the mother of Athene by Zeus, who swallowed her out of fear that any son she bore would overthrow him. 20th C.

Meurig Meurig is traditionally considered the Welsh form of MAURICE. However, its use dates to at least the sixth century, centuries before Maurice was in use in the rest of Britain, and, indeed, before St. Maurice's cult was fully established. This strongly points to Meurig being in fact a native Celtic

name. The second element screams out a derivation from CC: *r-g- "king," while the first may well be *mfro- "great" or *mori- "sea." Morirex is attested on a tombstone from the Roman period, which was found at Maryport in Cumbria. Var: Meuric; Merric, Merrick, Meyric, Meyrick (hist).

Meztli 2 Mexican name. Nahuatl: meztli "moon."

Mheni c? y Shona: mheni "lightning-bolt."

Mia ? Mia arose as a pet-form of MARIA in Germany, Scandinavia, and Holland. It is first found in use in the ESW in the nineteenth century. At some point, it became associated with the Italian mia-the feminine form of mio "my". In a number of African languages, such as Ngoni and Zalamo, mia means "hundred." In the Austronesian language Gilbertese, mia means "dream." It is now much mixed up with MAIA and MAYA. Var: Mya. Bearers: Mia Farrow (b. 1945), the American actress-responsible for much of the name's use since the late 20th C.

Mica Y e As a given name, Mica is generally treated as a variant of MICAH. It is also, however, the name of the glittering crystalline fragments found in some rocks. L: mica "crumb," "grain," and "morsel."

Micah ? Biblical name-a contraction of the Hebrew Micaiah "who is like Yahweh?" 16th C-used for girls from the twentieth century. Var: Michaiah.

Michael c~ In the Judeo-Christian pantheon, Michael is an archangel. Heb: "who is like (a) God?" He is one and the same as St. Michael, who has a peculiar habit of having churches dedicated to him atop hills across Europe, often in places with histories dating back well before Christian times. This may well be because Michael was credited with defeating "the Devil." As many Pagan Gods were tarred with this brush (a cheap but effective tactic used to convert and control), Michael was seen as the best "man for the job" to "defeat" particularly tenacious Pagan deities. Even the Catholic Church admits that Michael "replaced" the Pagan God Wotan, to whom many shrines on hill-tops were once dedicated in Germany. Michael's association with springs and healing suggest he also took on many attributes formerly ascribed to Apollo. In the Middle Ages, evidence

suggests that it was pronounced like MITCHELL. 12th C. Dim: Mick, Micky, Mike, Mickey. Welsh: Meical; Meic (dim), Dan, Ger: Michael, Cz: Michal, Pol: Michal, It Ga: Micheal, Fr: Michel, It: Michele, Dut: Michiel, Port, Sp: Miguel, Rom: Mihai, Hun: Mihaly, Fin: Mikael; Mikko, Mika (dim); Mikhail; MISCHA, Misha (dim); Ukr: Mikhailo, Basque: Mitxel. Bearers: Michael Caine (b. 1933), the British actor; Michael Douglas (b. 1944), the American actor; Michael Jackson (1958-2009), the American singersongwriter; Michael Corleone, the anti-hero of The Godfather film series (1972-90); Michael Fisher is a character in Diana Wynne Jones's novel Howl's Moving Castle (1986); Michael "Mike" Williams, a character (and the name of the actor who played him) in The Blair Witch Project (1994).

Michaela 2 Feminine form of MICHAEL. Mostly 20th C. Var: Micaela, Makayla, Makala, Mikayla, Mikala, McKayla. Dim: Mickey, Micki, Mickie, Mikki, It: Micaela, Cz, Ger, Slk, Sw: Michaela, Fr: Michele, MICHELLE; Micheline (dim), Cro, Rom: Mihaela, Scand: Mikaela.

Michelangelo cc Combination of the Italian forms of MICHAEL and ANGEL. Bearers: Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (1475-1564), the Renaissance artist.

Michelle Y Usual form of Michele-the French form of MICHAELA-in the ESW. 19th C. "Michelle" (1966) was a song by the Beatles, responsible for much of its use in the late twentieth century. Var: Michele. Dim: CHELLE, SHELL, SHELLEY. Bearers: Michelle Pfeiffer (b. 1958), the American actress; Michelle Obama (b. 1964), the American First Lady.

Midas cc The legendary Phrygian king of Greek mythology. As a reward for being such a good host to Silenus, Bacchus granted him any wish. Midas wished that everything he touched would turn to gold-sealing his own fate. Fortunately, Bacchus took pity on him. He freed him of the curse, after which Midas took himself off to the country and spent the rest of his days worshipping Pan. Late 19th C.

Midir c' The name of a son of the Dagda in Irish mythology, sometimes called a fairy king. He is particularly known for his great love of Etain, lasting over lifetimes. The Irish epic The Wooing of Etain charts Midir's

quest to regain her following her rebirth. He is particularly noted for his magical prowess. Var: Mider, Midhir.'The etymology is very uncertain. It may be connected with OE: midithir < CC: *med-o "to measure" and "to judge."

Midnight ? d As the darkest time of the night, midway between the evening and the morning, the turning point between days, midnight has long been associated with the Otherworld, with spirits and fairies, elves, and ghosts-and, of course, with Witches. OE: mid "the middle of" + NIGHT. 20th C.

Midsummer c' Y Old English: mid "the middle of" + SUMMER, Midsummer is the historic English name for the Summer Solstice. It has been in continual use for over a thousand years, its roots lying deep in the Anglo-Saxon period. It is a word redolent of summer's height, full of the myth and magic that surrounds the Solstice-frequently now called Litha in some Pagan traditions. To Druids, it is Alban Hefin (literally "Midsummer Solstice"). Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, captures the essence of Midsummer and all it is and has been. Midsummer's Day possesses a peculiar mix of both joy and sadness; the sun blazes in the vertex, magnificent and regal, at the pinnacle of its power. Days are long and balmy, Nature is vibrantly alive, all is lush and green and bright-but the wheel has turned, and the path to Midwinter must now be trodden, with its shortening of days and withering of life. The surname Midsummer arose as a byname for someone born at Midsummer. 18th C.

Midwinter c~Y The English "midwinter" can refer specifically to the Winter Solstice, or to the period either side when Winter has Nature in its thrall, classically typified by thick snow and ice-an annual reality for many in some parts of the Northern Hemisphere and a rarity for others. It is a time when days are short and dark, when it is invariably cold and frequently cheerless out of doors, when all seems dead or in deep, dreamless sleep. It is a time when we look inwards-in both practical and metaphorical terms-gathering around a warm fire for reflection.'The word has been with us since Anglo-Saxon times, and, like Midsummer, is a truly English name for the Solstice and its season. OE: mid "the middle of" + WINTER.'The surname is thought to have been originally applied to those born at Midwinter. 19th C.

Mignonette Y Mignonette was first used as the name of a type of lace made in France in the early eighteenth century, becoming attached to the fragrant plant *Reseda odorata* in the middle of that century. Fr: mignon "pretty," "delicate," and "graceful" + dim. suffix -ette. In the language of flowers, the mignonette signifies "your qualities surpass your charms"-a reference perhaps to the fact that the plant's flowers aren't the most exciting, but do have a lovely fragrance. Late 19th C.

Mikao cc Japanese name-mika "earthenware jar" + o "man." Bearers: Mikao Usui (1865-1926), the founder of Reiki.

Miki Y Japanese name-mi "beauty" + ki "record"; ki "princess"; ki "tree."

Mikoa ? e Abenaki: mikoa "squirrel."

Miksa c? Hungarian name of uncertain origin, generally treated as the Hungarian form of MAXIMILIAN and MAX. Both St. Maximilian and the sixteenth-century Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I are known as Miksa in Hungary, but it is unclear whether Maximilian itself is the actual source of Miksa, or whether it originated as a diminutive of the Hungarian forms of MICHAEL or NICHOLAS.

Milan e 2 Milan has three distinct origins. 'Me Indian boy's name derives from San: milana "union" and "encounter." The Slavic boy's name-used in Croatian, Czech, Russian, Serbian, and Slovak-derives from mil "gracious," "dear," and "beloved." Lastly, since the nineteenth century in the ESW, Milan has sometimes been used with reference to the Italian city. It: Milano < L: Mediolanum < CC: *medyo "middle" + *landf "open land"-i.e. "city in the middle of the open land."

Milborough Y Old English: Mildburh-milde "mild" + burh "fortress," a name borne by a seventh-/eighth-century saint (her sister was St. Mildred). It survived the Norman Conquest Latinized as Milburga and in forms such as Milburg. Later forms included Milbury and Milbrer-the latter was a Romani name.

Milda Y Old English: milde "mild." Milda saw enough use in the Middle Ages to originate the surname Mild. It is also the name of the Lithuanian

Goddess of love, who rides naked in a chariot drawn by doves-a clear parallel of Aphrodite. Lith: mildus "pious" and "meek"-cognate with the English Milda. Var: Milde, My1de.

Mildred Y Old English: Mildthryth (Mildpryd)-milde "mild" + kryd "power" and "strength." It was the name of a seventh-century saint, venerated in the Middle Ages. It never quite fell out of use, and was revived in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Mildred Hubble, the "worst Witch" and heroine of Jill Murphy's Worst Witch series (1974-2007).

Milele Y Swahili: milele "infinity," "eternity," "infinite," "eternal," and "always."

Milena Y Feminine form of the Slavic name MILAN. The name spread across Europe in the nineteenth century in honor of the Queen of Montenegro, Milena Vukotic (1847- 1923), who married King Nicholas I in 1860, when she was just thirteen years old.

Miles c~ Norman form of MILO, introduced to Britain by the Normans in the eleventh century. In Ireland the name was later used to render into English MaolMhuire (Var: Mael Muire) "servant of MARY." Contrary to the assertions of some, Miles has nothing to do with L: miles "soldier," and is pronounced completely differently. Var: Myles. Bearers: Miles Davis (1926-91), the American jazz musician; Miles O'Brien, a character in the American science-fiction series Star Trek: The Next Generation (1987-94) and Deep Space Nine (1993-99).

Miley Y c' Originally a pet-form of a number of names beginning with, or containing, the element mil, Miley occurs as a name in its own right from the nineteenth century. Most use has occurred since the rise to fame of American actress and singer Miley Cyrus (b. 1992), who plays a character called Miley in the American television series Hannah Montana (2006-). Her real name is actually Destiny Hope; Miley arose from her baby pet-name "Smiley-Miley."

Millicent y Old German: Amalaswintha-amal "work" + swinde "strong"-the name of a sixth-century queen of the Ostrogoths. By the eleventh century, it had developed into Malasintha and Melisenda, and the Normans introduced

it to Britain in the form Melisent, which, along with Milisent was the usual form in the Middle Ages. Millicent itself dates from the fifteenth century. Var: Millesant, Milicent, Milicenta, Millesenta (hist). Dim: MILLIE, Milly. Bearers: Millicent Garrett Fawcett (1847-1929), the English educationist and suffragist. Millicent St. Clair-Erskine (1867- 1955), a daughter of the Earl of Rosslyn (of Rosslyn Chapel fame) and later Duchess of Sutherland, a writer and socialite, well known for her involvement as a nurse for the Red Cross during the First World War; Millicent Bulstrode is a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Millie Y Originally a short for MILLICENT, but since adopted as a short form of AMELIA, CAMILLA, and EMILY and used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century. Var: Milly. Bearers: Millie Dillmount, the heroine of the musical Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967); Millie Chant, an enchantress (and former Goddess) in Diana Wynne Jones's Chrestomanci series (1977-2006).

Milo e Old German form of MILES. Its origins are obscure, but it is thought likely that they lie with the Slavic mil "gracious," "beloved," and "dear." Another plausible option is that it arose as a short form of a name containing OG: amal "work," such as Amalric (see Almeric). It occurs in medieval Latin records, although men so named were probably called Miles. When it was revived in the eighteenth century, it is possible that the inspiration was a different Milo - the Latin form of Greek Milon < Gr: milos "yew," borne by a famous athlete of the sixth century BCE.

Milton c~ English surname, taken from one of the many places of the name. OE: middel "middle" or myln "mill" + tun. 17th C. Some use has been in honor of John Milton (1608-74), the English poet. Bearers: Milton Byron Babbitt (1916-2011), the American composer.

Mimela Y Lakota: mimela "to be round," "to be circular," and "to be disc-like." It could be applied to the Wheel of the Year, or even the circle of life, as well as the moon.

Mimi Y Italian pet-form of MARIA, used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. The name features in Puccini's opera La Boheme (1896). In Northern Australian Aboriginal folklore, a mimi is a helpful

fairy-like creature with a delicate, elongated body in danger of snapping in the wind. Coincidentally, in Gamilaraay, miimi means "sister." In French mimi means "cuddle;" in Ojibwe-Potawatomi, it means "dove;" and it means "ear" in Japanese.

Mimir cc In Norse mythology, Mimir is a God of wisdom. After his beheading during the war between the Aesir and the Vanir, Odin retained Mimir's head, which continued to offer words of wisdom in a manner reminiscent of Bran the Blessed. The etymology is not at all clear, but it is possible that it is connected in some way with the Latin MEMORIA, and even, just possibly, MINERVA. Var: Mim.

Mimosa 2 The name of a number of plants native to Central and South America. L: mimosus "mimic" and "mimicking" < mimus "mime"-reference to the fact the plants move their leaves in a life-like manner when stimulated. 19th C.

Mina y In the ESW Mina arose as a short-form of WILHELMINA, and has been in independent use from the nineteenth century. Mina is also a Persian name-Persian/ Arabic: mind "enamel" and "lapis lazuli." In a number of European languages-from Czech to Portuguese-mina means "mine" (as in gold, coal, or tin). Mina is also the Sanskrit name for the constellation Pisces.

Minditsi 2 Romani: minditsi "maiden" and "virgin."

Minerva ? Roman Goddess of wisdom-the Roman counterpart of the Greek Athene. Unlike her Greek equivalent, she is less associated with war and more with the creative arts, including magic. She is also associated with the Etruscan Goddess Menrva, who is possibly Minerva's predecessor and the source of her name. Most scholars believe Etruscan is unrelated to other known languages, and too little survives to establish a meaning for Minerva in Etruscan. If, however, the name is Indo-European, it might credibly derive from PIE: *men-mn- "thought" and "mind." 16th C. Dim: MINNIE. Bearers: Minerva McGonagall, a Witch and Deputy Headmistress of Hogwarts in the Harry Potter series.

Minna Y German name of unclear origins. It may have arisen simply as a pet-form of WILHELMINA, or be an adoption of OG: minna "memory" or "love." The former is the more likely, as it doesn't seem to have been used in Germany before the sixteenth century. Minna Troil is a character in Sir Walter Scott's novel *The Pirate* (1822), and is probably responsible for its use in the ESW. 19th C.

Minnehaha Y The name given to Hiawatha's wife in Longfellow's "*My Song of Hiawatha*" (1855). In the poem, the meaning is given as "laughing-water," but in fact it simply means "waterfall" in Dakota, and is the name of a waterfall on a stream which flows into the Mississippi near Fort Snelling in Minnesota. Mid-19th C.

Minnie Y Pet-form of MARY, WILHELMINA, and even-on occasion-MINERVA; used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Minnie Driver (b. 1870), the British actress and singer; Minnie Mouse, the Disney cartoon character, who first appeared in 1928; "*Minnie the Moocher*" (1931) is a jazz classic.

Mint c~ Y One of the best-known and best-loved herbs; a number of varieties are in common use as both culinary and medicinal plants-such as peppermint and spearmint. L: *Mentha*. < Gr: minthe/mintha "mint"; Minthe-also known as Mintha-was a nymph turned into mint by Persephone to save her from the advances of Hades. A herb of Venus or Mercury and Air, mint is used in magic for healing. It also brings prosperity and can be used for protection. A mint's "mintiness" is caused by the volatile oil menthol, which is an antiseptic, analgesic decongestant. Water-mint was one of the three most sacred herbs of the ancient Druids (the others being meadowsweet and vervain), and it is still valued in herbal medicine for treating diarrhea, gastroenteritis, colds, and painful periods. 19th C.

Minty 2 Gc Minty the girl's name originated as a pet-form of ARAMINTA, but Minty is also an English surname, taken from Minety in Wiltshire. OE: minte "mint" + eg "island." This is probably responsible for some examples of Minty used for boys as well as girls. 18th C.

Mirabel Y Latin: mirabilis "wonderful," "marvelous," "amazing," "strange," and "extraordinary," Mirabilis and Mirabella both occur in the records from the twelfth century, with Mirabel developing as the everyday form. The name had all-but died out by the end of the eighteenth century, but was revived in the nineteenth. Var: Mirable, Mirabilla, Marabel, Marable, Merable, Merible, Mirabell, Myrabel, Myrabell, Myrable (hist); Mirabelle (mod)-also the name of an apricot-like plum.

Miracle ? e Latin: miraculum "object of wonder." In Late Latin, this took on the biblical sense of "miracle," although it was only rarely used as such, with other words generally employed to carry this meaning. The word passed through French to English in the twelfth century, still carrying the simple sense of "wondrous thing," though quickly gaining its meaning of "something brought about by the hand of a Divine Being." 17th C.

Mirage Y e The name given to the shimmering appearance of water in the distance in very hot weather. Fr: mirage < mirer "to be reflected." 20th C.

Mirak c~ The traditional name of Beta Andromedae in the constellation of Andromeda, Beta Ursae Majoris in Ursa Major and Epsilon Bootis in Bootes. Ar: miraqq "abdominal wall" (an obsolete word now usually translated as "loins") < raqqa "to be soft." Var: Merak, Mirach.

Miranda Y Latin: mirandus "worthy of admiration" < miror "to admire." Miranda's first appearance seems to be in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. 17th C. Bearers: Miranda Richardson (b. 1958), the British actress; Miranda Otto (b. 1967), the Australian actress; Miranda Pierpoint-a Witch-the last role of Bette Davis in the 1989 film *Wicked Stepmother*.

Mireille 2 A French name, deriving from Occitan Mirelha. This is thought to derive from Occitan: mirar "to admire"; the Provencal form Mireio featured in an 1859 poem of the name by Frederic Mistral. Used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century.

Mireli Y A Romani name of uncertain origins. It may be derived from the Sanskrit boy's name Murali-sometimes rendered as Mireli in English-which means "flute" and is an epithet of Krishna. Other possible sources are MIREILLE and MURIEL.

Miri 2 o' Igbo: miri "water"; W: miri "merriment."

Miriam Y The form of MARY generally used for characters of the name in the Old Testament. In particular, it is used for the sister of Moses. 16th C. Var: Mariamne. Bearers: Miriam Margoyles (b. 1941), the British actress; Rosaleen Miriam Norton (1917-79), "the Witch of King's Cross."

Miruts c~ Ethiopian name, deriving from the Amharic verb "to choose" i.e. "chosen."

Mirzam c~ The name of a star in Canis Major; its scientific name is Beta Canis Majoris. Said to mean "the herald" in Arabic.

Mischa e 2 Russian diminutive of Mikhail, the Russian form of MICHAEL. It came into use as a girl's name in the ESW in the late twentieth century. Bearers: Mischa Barton (b. 1986), the Anglo-American actress and model. Var: Misha.

Miselda Y Romani name recorded in the nineteenth century. Most likely, it is a corruption of MATILDA, perhaps under the influence of GRISELDA. Var: Macilda, Masilda.

Misericordia 2 Latin: misericordia "tender-heartedness," "pity," and "mercy." It occurs in parish records of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries-but only ones in Latin, suggesting the girls so-named were actually called Mercy.

Misko ' ? Ojibwe: misko "red."

Mist c~ Y Mist is metaphorically synonymous with mystery (though the similarity of the words is pure coincidence). It is understandable that it should be so-the whitish-grey vapor is a shroud; veiling, hiding, stealing away reality and replacing it with imagination. Since Antiquity, it has been used as a metaphor for lack of clarity of sight and for things that are hidden or unknown. Mist combines both Air and Water, neither one nor the other, and is thus strongly associated with the Otherworld, and with passing between the worlds. Mists in folklore are often a sign of the presence of Fairies and other otherworldly beings. The word "mist" derives from a PIE

root which also gave San: mihika "mist," Gr: omikhle "mist" and "cloud," Ru: mgla "haze" and "mist," and Lith: migla "mist." 19th C.

Mistletoe Yc? 'The mistletoe's long association with Druids-as detailed by Julius Caesar-has meant mistletoe has always possessed an aura of mysticism and magic, even if there weren't enough reasons already. Its habitat of growing in trees, seemingly without roots, led to its association with the Divine. As an evergreen, it is naturally associated with immortality. Mistletoe growing on oak trees was collected with much ceremony by Druids using golden sickles. The collection took place at a particular moment in the moon's cycle and at the beginning of the year. According to the Druids, mistletoe protects its possessor from all evil. In Norse mythology, the arrow that killed Balder was made of mistletoe-which is one reason why it is also considered "bane ful." Once he was restored to life, Frigg ordained that all who passed beneath the mistletoe should kiss, to show that it had become a symbol of love instead of hate. Ruled by the Sun and Air, the mistletoe has a number of medicinal uses, most importantly in the treatment of certain cancers. However, as the plant is poisonous, it should only be used under professional supervision. In magic, it is still used to work spells of love, protection, fertility, health, and exorcism. OE: mistel "mistletoe" + tan "twig." It may ultimately share the same origin source as "mix," as the seeds of the mistletoe end up mixed in with bird droppings. Late 19th C.

Misty Y An adjective derived from MIST, carrying all of Mist's associations. Its use mostly post-dates Errol Garner's jazz song "Misty" (1954). Bearers: Misty Copeland (b. 1982), the American ballerina.

Mitchell c' English surname, deriving from MICHAEL; Mitchell was a vernacular form in the Middle Ages. Var: Michell. Dim: Mitch.

Mithras c~ A Greco-Roman God, who was the central God of Mithraism, a Mystery religion. Mithraism arrived quite late in the ancient world, dating to the first century CE. The cult was especially popular with soldiers, and temples dedicated to Mithras are found near many Roman forts. Associated with Sol Invictus, his birthday was likewise kept on December 25. Indo-Iranian: *mitra- "promise" and "covenant." 20th C.

Mithuna Y Sanskrit: mithuna "paired" or "twins"-as such, it is the Sanskrit name for Gemini. The word mithuna is also used to mean "union," specifically the spiritual union of man and woman, male and female, particularly in the act of sex and it features as such in Tantra. Mithun is used as a boy's name in India.

Mitra C' Mitra is the original Indo-Iranian form of MITHRAS. It is also used as another name of Surya, which may represent a later and independent development from San: mitra "friend"-but used figuratively to mean "sun." The similarities with Mithras, however, are considerable-not least the solar connection.

Mitsuko 2 Japanese name-mitsu "light," "ray," "brilliance," and "sparkle" + ko "child."

Mixtli y Mexican name. Nahuatl: mixtli "cloud."

Mizelli Y Romani name of uncertain meaning. Possibly, it derives from MARCELLA. 19th C or earlier. Var: Mizella.

Mizuki Y Japanese name-mi "beautiful" + tsuki "moon," or mizu "fresh" + ki "hope" and "wish."

Mjollnir ci The name of Thor's hammer. Pendants featuring the hammer are known from pre-Christian Scandinavia, and are often worn today by followers of Asatru, etc. ON: mala "to crush"-hence "the crusher." Var: Mjolnir.

Mnemosyne Y Greek: mnemosune "remembrance." Mnemosyne is a Titaness and sister of Zeus. By him, she is the mother of the Muses. 20th C.

Modesty Y One of the Puritan "virtue names." L: modestia "mildness," "propriety," and "self-effacement." Modest has also been used, for boys as well as girls, sometimes in honor of one of the saints of the name (who are often known in English by the Latin Modestus). 17th C.

Modron 2 Welsh form of Matrona, the Celtic Mother Goddess. She features in the Mabinogion as the mother of Mabon-i.e. she is the "Divine Mother"

of the "Divine Son." She may be one and the same as the Triple Goddess known in Latin simply as Matres-"the Mothers." CC: *mft-r "mother" + suffix -on-, which features in the names of many Celtic Gods and Goddesses. Matrona was also the name of the River Marne, France, in the Roman period, and was almost certainly named after the Goddess-an inscription to the Goddess was found at Belesme, Haute-Marne. In Latin, matrona means "married woman," but the resemblance to the name of the Goddess is coincidental-although they do share the same root.

Mogh Ruith c~ The name of a legendary Irish Druid, a powerful wizard, who could turn men to stone with his breath. It Ga: mo "servant" + roth "wheel." "The wheel-or "solar cross"-is a hugely important Pagan symbol found in Ireland, signifying the Wheel of the Year and the solar festivals. The gleaming chariot Mogh Ruith drove (called the roth rdmach "wheel of oars") shone as brightly as the sun-add to this his shield studded with stars.

Mohammed c~ Meaning "praised" and "praiseworthy" in Arabic, Mohammed is one of the most familiar Islamic names. Var: Mohamed, Mohammad, Muhamad, Muhammad, and Muhammed. Turk: Mehmet. It is famously borne by Islam's principal prophet and founder, who lived in the sixth and seventh centuries CE.

Mohini ? In Indian mythology, Mohini is an avatar of Vishnu-the only time he was incarnated as a woman. San: mohana "depriving of consciousness," "bewildering," "infatuating," "seduction," and "magical charm" (specifically to bewilder an enemy). Var: Mohana. Masc: Mohan.

Moira Y Greek: moira "portion" or "share"; it came to mean "lot" and thus "fate." In Ireland it was used to render Maire and it may initially have developed as an Anglicization of it, or adoption of the name of the Irish town of Moira in County Down, itself the Anglicized form of Maigh Rath < Jr Ga: magh "plain" + rath "fort." The Earldom of Moira was created in 1762. Var: Moyra. Bearers: Moira O'Neill (1864- 1955), the pseudonym of Irish poet Agnes Higginson.

Moirne Y Irish name, either a diminutive of MOR or variant of MUIRNE. Rendered into English with Maud and Maria.

Moksha Y e Sanskrit: moksa "release"-but also "freedom," "liberation," and "salvation." In Hinduism and Buddhism, it is used to mean "release from rebirth." 20th C. Moksha may be the source of the Romani male names Motsha, Motshan, and Motshus, recorded in the nineteenth century.

Molinda Y A nineteenth-century creation, presumably inspired by MELINDA, or conceived as a combination of MOLLY and LINDA. For some reason, it has seen most use in Cornwall and Wales, possibly being linked to W: moli "to praise."

Molinya Y Russian: molinya "lightning."

Mollitia y Latin: mollitia "tenderness," "softness," "suppleness," and "voluptuousness."

Molly Y Old pet-form of MARY, long established as a name in its own right, although prior to the twentieth century, most people called Molly were formally called Mary. Used especially in Scotland and Ireland. Var: Mollie. It Gael: Mallaidh, Maille, Maili, Sc Gaelic: Maileag, Maili. Bearers: Molly Bloom, an important character in James Joyce's Ulysses (1922); Molly Weasley, the motherly Witch in the Harry Potter series; "Molly Malone" is one of the bestknown Irish songs.

Moloch c~ The name of a Phoenician God. His name is probably derived from the Semitic root mlk from which derive the Akkadian malaku "to advise" and maliku "advisor," and the Hebrew melek "king." In Welsh, moloch means "terror" and "dread." 20th C.

Momo Y Japanese name-momo "peach." Momoko combines momo "peach" with ko "child."

Mona Y Often used as a short form of MONICA, Mona is also the Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic Muadhnaít. 01: muad "noble" and "good" + nait-the name of an early saint. Outside Ireland, its use may derive from the Italian Mona-a late medieval contraction of MADONNA used as a title equivalent to the English "ma'am," and famously found in the title of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa (c. 1503). Mona is also the Latin name for both the Isle of Man and Anglesey, and use in Wales is most

likely a reference to this; Mon-the modern Welsh name of the island-has also been used as a given name in Wales in the twentieth century (see Manannan). Mona is also used as a variant of MUNA. In Old English, mona meant "moon"-though it was a masculine word, cognate with Norse MANI. In Spanish, mona means "inebriation," while in the African language Machambe, mona means "child." Var: Muadnat, Monat (Ir Ga). 19th C. Bearers: Mona Simpson (b. 1957), the American novelist who shares her name with the fictional Mona Simpson of the American animated series *The Simpsons* (1989-); Mona Mayfair, a Witch in Anne Rice's *Mayfair Witches* series (1990-94); Mona Parker, the titular vampire in the children's cartoon *Mona the Vampire* (1999-2003).

Monarda Y Botanical name for Bergamot. It was bestowed upon the plant in the eighteenth century in honor of the Spanish physician and botanist Nicolas Monardes (1493-1588), whose name probably derives from MAYNARD. Late 20th C.

Moncha Y A name from Irish mythology, believed to represent the titular Goddess of the Manapii, an Irish tribal group mentioned by the geographer Ptolemy in the second century CE. 'The Manapii is probably connected with the Menapii, a Belgic tribe in Gaul, although the resemblance may be coincidental. 'The Belgic tribes spoke a Germanic language, and the origin of their name is probably Germanic, while Manapii is probably Celtic. Moncha may have been rendered with Monica from the seventeenth century onwards. Revived 20th C. Var: Monca.

Monday Y For many people, Monday is the least favorite day of the week, representing the return to work after the weekend-although Bank Holiday Mondays in Britain go a long way towards redeeming it. Combining MOON + DAY, Monday is a translation of L: Lunae dies "the day of the Moon," from which Fr: lundi directly derives. In the children's rhyme "Monday's Child," the line "Monday's child is fair of face" is perhaps an oblique reference to the beauty of the moon.'The surname Monday may have arisen as a name or nickname for someone born on a Monday, or someone who held "Mondayland"-a type of medieval rent in which someone paid for use of a piece of land by working for its owner on a Monday. 18th C.

Moneta 2 An epithet of Juno, from L: moneo "to remind," "to advise," and "to warn." Moneta was also used in Latin literature as the name of the mother of the Muses. Moneta means "money," "coin," or currency in several modern languages, including Basque, Italian, and Polish. 19th C.

Mongan c Irish Gaelic name-mong "tuft of hair" + dim. suffix -an. It featured in Irish myth as the name of a hero of the Dal nAraide.

Monica y St. Monica is traditionally said to be the mother of the fourth-century St. Augustine. The origins of her name are uncertain. She was said to have come from the city of Tagaste in Numidia (a kingdom now in modern Algeria), and it is most likely that her name is Numidian in origin, being Hellenized as Monika. This has the appearance of deriving from Gr: monos "alone" and "solitary" + the suffix -ikos, but the Greeks always liked to give names some semblance of a meaning in their language when they Hellenized them if they could. 16th C. It, Rom: Monica, Sp: Monica, Port: Monica, Fr: Monique, Cro, Cz, Ger, Lith, Pol, Scand: Monika, Hun: Monika. Bearers: Monica Dickens (1915-92), the English novelist; Monica Seles (b. 1973), the American tennis player; Monica Geller, a principal character in the American sitcom Friends (1994-2004).

Monina Y Latinized form of Irish Gaelic Moninne, the name of an early fifth-century saint now usually called Blinne. Probably Jr Ga: mo "my" + Middle Irish ini "daughter" < OIr: ingen. It is also possible that the -ninne stands for a name-*Ninne < nin "ash-tree" (see Ninian). 19th C.

Monisha Y Romani: monisha "woman" < San: manusa "human."

Montagu e English surname, from Montaigu-le-Bois in France. OF: mont "hill" + aigu "point"-i.e. "pointed hill." 16th C. Var: Montague, Montacute. Dim: Monty. Bearers: (Augustus) Montague Summers (1880-1948), a self-styled Catholic priest who wrote (unflatteringly) about Witchcraft-one of his works was a translation of the fifteenth-century Malleus Maleficarum; Montagu "Monty" Don (b. 1955), the British horticulturalist.

Montserrat 2 Spanish and Catalan girl's name, derived from Montserrat in Spain, which is home to a monastery with a famous statue of the Virgin

Mary-Nuestra Senora de Montserrat. L: mons "mountain" + serratus "serrated" or "sawshaped." 20th C.

Moon Y There is little doubt that for as long as humans have been humans-and possibly even before-they have been drawn to the beauty, mystery, and magic of the moon. From a purely scientific and practical point of view, the moon plays an essential part in the life of the Earth, being responsible for the tides and, possibly, a woman's monthly cycles since ancient times it has certainly been observed that most women's cycles are exactly the same length as a cycle of the moon. This is one of the reasons why the moon is considered a Goddess in many mythologies-and also why women are often associated with the moon and the night. The unfailing regularity of the moon's cycle has led to its use as a calendar by many cultures. Islam and Judaism remain on a lunar calendar. Unfortunately, twelve cycles of the moon are not quite equal to a year, which means the Islamic calendar ends up revolving gradually round the year getting earlier and earlier; Judaism compensates by adding an extra month from time to time. In the realms of the mythical and esoteric, the Moon plays an ever greater role. Her kinship with the night and darkness has led to her association with secrets, magic, and death. Her closeness to women means she is associated with emotions and intuition. She rules the night as the sun rules the day, symbolic of night as the sun is symbolic of day. For most Westerners today, trapped most of the year in cities full of light and air pollution, the moon appears a sickly yellow but she can still be seen in all her glory in the countryside, a brilliant, shining silver disc casting her ethereal light upon a darkened world. The full moon away from light pollution is one of Nature's greatest works of art; the strange bluish tinge the world takes on gives it an otherworldliness which makes it easy to appreciate why it is also considered the time for otherworldly beings to be out and about. OE: mona < PIE: me(n)ses- "moon," probably from *me- "to measure" testimony to the great age of a calendar based on the cycles of the moon. Moon as a name began as a surname, deriving in part from Moyon in La Manche, France and partly from Anglo-Norman: mown or mon-"monk." It is encountered as a given name from the seventeenth century; by the nineteenth it was confined largely to second-name use for both males and females, although it is possible that by the end of the century the word "moon" may have been starting to creep in, especially in combinations such as Daisy Moon and

Rose Moon and perhaps even Mabel Moon and Minnie Moon, for its alliterative and metrical qualities. In the twentieth century, although Moon remains largely a middle name, there is evidence that it is the moon now honored; there are plentiful examples of names such as Ruby Moon, Holly Moon, Summer Moon, and Autumn Moon-even the odd Solstice Moon and Honey Moon.

Moonbeam ? A twentieth-century adoption of "moonbeam," a word which has been in use since the sixteenth century with the meaning "a ray of moonlight."

Moonlight Y Redolent combination of MOON + LIGHT. The rare and intriguing surname Moonlight is thought to have been bestowed upon someone who went roaming by moonlight. Mid-19th C.

Mopsus ' Mopsus was the name of not just one seer in the ancient world, but three-one in Argos, one in Thessaly, and another, a son of Manto. Gr: mopsos "blood-stain"-but Mopsopia was another name for Athens, and there was also a mountain in Thessaly called Mopsion, so it may be that the name has a different source.

Mor Y Old Irish name-it was very common in Ireland in the Middle Ages. It Ga: mor "great." It is thought that one reason why Mary became particularly common in Ireland from the seventeenth century onwards was because it was used to render Mor into English. Var: Morina (hist); Dim: Moirin Anglicized as Moreen. Sc Ga: Mbr; MORAG (dim).

Morag Y Scottish pet-form of Mbr-the Scots Gaelic form of MOR. Late 18th C. Bearers: Morag, an alleged monster that lives in Loch Morar, first sighted in 1887; Katie Morag, the central character in a series of Scottish children's books by Mairi Hedderwick.

Morann c~ An Irish Druid at the court of Conchobhar mac Nessa. It was he who prophesized the birth of Cu Chulainn. The etymology is not entirely clear; it may be just a variant of Moran-diminutive of MOR. Var: Morand.

Mordecai c~ Biblical name-Hebraized form of the Babylonian Marduka "man of MARDUK." 16th C. Gr: Mardocheus.

Morena y Spanish: moreno "dark brown"-often translated with the more poetic "dusky." It features in the special hymn to the Virgin Mary sung at Montserrat called the "Virolai", in which Mary is referred to as the Morena de la serra-"the dark brown lady of the mountains." This has led to the cult statue at Monserrat acquiring the sobriquet Moreneta "little dark one." Morena also happens to mean "good morning" in Maori-deriving from English "morning." 19th C. See also Marzanna.

Morfran cc The name of the son of Ceridwen and Tegid in Welsh myth, known for being so ugly that he earned the epithet Afagddu-"gross darkness." Wishing to compensate for his ugliness by ensuring he was wise, Ceridwen undertook to brew the Awen-unfortunately, the endeavor went pear-shaped when Gwion Bach accidentally ingested the potion. In Arthurian Romance, Morfran was one of Arthur's knights. W: mor "sea" or mawr "great" + bran "raven." 21st C.

Morfydd Y Traditional Welsh girl's name. It was borne by a daughter of the legendary Urien of Rheged as well as one of the lovers of the fourteenth-century poet Dafydd ap Gwilym. The etymology isn't entirely clear, but it might plausibly derive from mor "sea" or mawr "great" + budd "profit" and "advantage"; the latter also derives from CC: *bowdi "booty" and "victory," from which BOUDICCA derives. Revived 19th C. Var: Morfudd.

Morgan c~ 2 Ancient Welsh male name. CC: *mori- "sea" + *kanto- "circle" (it also means "hundred"). The second element is sometimes mistakenly said to be *geno- "born" which would make it a variant of MORIEN-however, the earlier form Morgant provides strong evidence against *geno- in favor of *kanto-. It is possible there was a feminine form *Morganta, but it is not attested, and Morgan's use as a variant of MORGANA is almost certainly a coincidence. Morgan was one of the Welsh names which survived the Middle Ages, giving rise to the surname responsible for the name's widespread use across the ESW from the same century. It is found as a girl's name from the nineteenth century, at first mostly as a middle name, suggesting the usage in that period was largely a bestowal of the surname-only in the twentieth did Morgan become established as a girl's first name, heavily influenced, no doubt, by its use as a variant of Morgana. In Romani, morgan means "hare."

Morgana Y Morgana le Fay is probably one of the most famed Witches in literature. Her name occurs in a number of forms in medieval times: ARGANTE, Feimurgan, Marguel, MORGAN, Morgaine, Morgien, Morgen, Morghain and Morghana. Her origins probably lie with the Welsh Goddess MODRON, though it is quite likely that some aspects of her myth were influenced by MORRIGAN, and that the form her name ultimately took was also influenced by the Irish Goddess. There may also have been some influence from MUIRGEN. In the earliest versions, she is Queen of Avalon. Regarded as a powerful sorceress and/or fairy, in later versions she became a half-sister of Arthur, a daughter of Igraine by an unknown father. Mid-20th C. The Romani girl's name Morjiana may be a variant.

Morganetta Y A daughter of Morgana le Fay in Bernardo Tasso's sixteenth-century *L'Amadigi*. 20th C.

Morgause Y In Arthurian Romance, the Witch Morgause is Arthur's half-sister and mother of Gawain. By Arthur himself, she is the mother of Mordred. Queen of the Orkneys, the earliest forms of her name are Orcades-the earliest known name of ORKNEY-and Morcades. Her name probably mutated into the forms Morgause and Morgawse through confusion with MORGAN. Late 20th C.

Moriarty e 2 Anglicized form of Moriartogh, a form of MURTAGH used in the seventeenth century. Moriarty is also used as the Anglicized form of the surname O Muircheataigh. 17th C. It is most famously associated with Sherlock Holmes's arch adversary Professor James Moriarty.

Morien c' Old Welsh name, cognate with MUIRGEN. CC: *mori- "sea" + *geno- "born." While Muirgen is predominantly a feminine name, however, Morien is male, and features in the early Welsh poem *Yr Gododdin*. Late 19th C.

Morinda Y Botanical name for the Indian mulberry. It was named by Linnaeus in the eighteenth century, combining L: morns "mulberry" with INDUS. It was used as a tonic for the kidneys in China during the Han Dynasty (206 BCE-23 CE), and is still used in herbal medicine for various complaints. The fruit is used in curries. Mid-19th C.

Morlais c? Welsh name, taken from the name of the Welsh river. W: mor "sea' + dais "voice." 19th C.

Morning ? a Symbolically, the morning stands for beginnings and youth, its air full of invigoration and fresh ness. Originally, the word "morning" referred specifically to the time around dawn-at the approach of the "morn," a word with cognates across the Germanic languages. It may ultimately derive from the same PIE root which gave San: marici "ray of light" and Gr: marmairo "to sparkle" and "to glitter." 20th C. Var: Morn. Bearers: Morning Glory ZellRavenheart-born Diana Moore-the American Pagan author.

Morpheus The Greek God of sleep. Gr: morphao "to shape" and "to fashion," because the God is deemed to create all the forms seen in dreams. Late 20th C. Bearers: Morpheus, a main character in the American Matrix film trilogy (1999-2003).

Morrigan Y The name of one of the best-known of all the Irish Gods and Goddesses, Morrigan is often represented as a Triple Goddess, the individual names usually given are Badhbh, Macha, and Nemain. Although Morrigan itself is singular-as is the variant Morrigu-Morrigan is sometimes referred to in the plural (Morrigna), reflecting her triple nature. A queen of the battlefield, she is a Goddess of war and death in battle, and often appears as a crow; crows are notorious for circling above battlefields, waiting to feast, and their general penchant for feeding on anything deadlike vultures-has given them their association with death. CC: *mor "female demon' + *r-gan- "queen." Late 20th C.

Mortimer e English surname, from Mortemer in France. OF: morte "dead" + mare "pond," "pool," or "swamp.-The Mortimers were a powerful baronial family in the Middle Ages. 17th C. Bearers: Sir (Robert Eric) Mortimer Wheeler (1890-1976), the British archaeologist.

Morvah Y The name of a small Cornish village. Cornish: mor "sea' + bedh "grave." Latter 20th C.

Morvern ? c~ The name of a mythical kingdom in Macpherson's Ossianic Poems. Jr Ga: mor "big" and "great," and bearn "breach" and "cleft." 19th

C. Var: Morventhough, strictly speaking, morven means "big wife" in Scots Gaelic-mor + bean "wife."

Morvoren Y Cornish: morvoren "mermaid" < mor "sea" + moroin "maiden." Morvoren is sometimes used as the name of the mermaid of Zennor. It is used as such by Philip Cannon in his opera Morvoren (1963). Morvoren was the Bardic name taken by Victorian novelist Kitty Lee Jenner (1854- 1936) at the Gorsedh Kernow in 1904. A character of the name features in Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter novels (1993-). Late 20th C.

Morwenna Y The name of a Cornish saint, another of the supposed daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog. She gives her name to the Parish of Morwenstow in North-East Cornwall, and an old church can be found in the little hamlet of Morwenstow itself, dedicated to St. Morwenna. Superficially, her name appears to derive from CC: *mori- "sea" + *windo "white." However, it is almost certainly the Latinized form of Cornish moroin, the cognate of MORWYN. 19th C-principally in the South West of England, particularly Cornwall and Devon. Var: Morwinna.

Morwyn Y Welsh: morwyn "maiden." CC: *moreink "maiden" < PIE: *mor- or *mer- "human." Early 20th C.

Morydd cc Old Welsh name-mor "sea" + iud(d) "lord." It appears in the Latinized form Morvidus in Geoffrey of Monmouth's twelfth-century Historia Regum Britanniae as the name of a legendary king of Britain. Early 20th C. Var: Morudd. See also Meriadoc.

Moschatel e Y One of the country synonyms of the Moschatel is townhall clock, which describes this little wildflower very well; at the end of a long, slender stem four small, five-petal greenish flowers face outwards in each direction, with a four-petal one atop, facing the sky. Late L: Moschatella < moschatus "musk-like" or "musky"-a reference to its scent (another of its names is muskroot). It is a strangely neglected plant, and gets only the occasional passing mention in the herbals, but it is a curious and attractive little wildflower nonetheless.

Moses c~ Biblical name, famously borne by the Old Testament prophet who gave Judaism (and Christianity and Islam) its fabled Ten Commandments. The name is almost certainly Egyptian, probably deriving from Egyptian: ms(i) "to bear," perhaps combined also with sw "him." These both feature in a number of Egyptian names. In all probability, a historic Moses had the name of a God prefixed to his name too-the most likely candidate being Ah (see Amasis), which could very easily have been quietly dropped in the transition to Hebrew. Moses was in use in the Middle Ages, and resurrected in the sixteenth century. Var: Moyse, Moyses (hist). Dim: MOSS (hist). Fr: Moise, Sp: Moises, Yid: Moishe, Mod Heb: Moshe, Dan, Ger: Mose, It: Mose.

Moss c' ? Humble moss is highly underrated by most Westerners, who consider it a pest when it starts to grow on their patios. But moss was once valued-and still is by Witches and herbalists. Moss taken from a gravestone and kept in the pocket is deemed to bring good fortune. There are several different types, each with its own particular medicinal usages, and all ruled by Saturn. Ground moss was valued for its ability to treat gallstones, and tree mosses were believed to be influenced by the tree they grew upon, with moss that had grown upon the oak valued the most. One of the most prized mosses today is the sphagnum, which is particularly soft and pale green. Its sponge-like nature has seen it used by florists, but its principal value is for dressing wounds, not just for its absorption but because it can help prevent gangrene; it was used in this way during the First World War, saving thousands of lives. The surname Moss derives in part from MOSES and in part from OE: mos "moss" and "bog," used of someone who lived where it was mossy or boggy. 17th C.

Mostyn c' Welsh surname, from Mostyn in Flintshire. MW: maes "field" + din "fort." 18th C.

Mourne e Y The name of a river and a mountain range in Ireland-though the two are unconnected. The river is in the West of Ireland, and is a tributary of the Foyle; the Mountains of Mourne lie in the East. Both, however, derive from Jr Ga: mziig "smoke" and "gloom" + darn "fist." The word darn may have been used to describe something's shape as well as carrying the literal meaning of "fist," and "misty fists" is a fairly apt

description of the Mountains of Mourne viewed from afar-they do look like a giant's knuckles rising from the sea. "Mountains of Mourne" is a folk-song written by Percy French in 1896.

Moy cc The name of an Irish river and a Scottish loch. In Irish Gaelic, the river is called Abhainn na Muaidhe suggesting a derivation from muad "noble" and "good."

Moyizela Y Zulu: moyizela "to smile (at)."

Moyo c 2 Shona, Swahili: moyo "innermost part" of something-i.e. its heart.

Mufari a' y Shona: mufari "cheerful."

Mugain 2 Irish Goddess, almost certainly one and the same with the saint of the name. The etymology is unclear. It may derive from 01: mzigha "perishing" and "straying," which in Scots Gaelic carries the meaning "destruction"-she is a Goddess, after all. Another possibility is miiig "smoke" and "gloom." However, it may be from something as simple as 01: mug "servant" and (in context) "servant girl" and thus "maiden." Var: Mughain, Mugen-the latter is the form used for the name of a wife of Conchobhar.

Mugron cc Irish Gaelic name, probably 01: mug "servant" + ron "seal." Var: Mughron.

Mui'n a' Y Mi'kmaq: mui'n "bear."

Muirenn Y Irish Gaelic name, usually explained as a combination of muir "sea" + faonn. However, it is quite possible-quite likely, even-that its real source is CC: *moreind "maiden," and that it is cognate with MORWYN. It was borne in mythology by a wife of Oisín, among a number of others. It was also used in "real life" too; four abbesses of Kildare bore the name alone. In the form Myrun, it occurs in the Icelandic Landnámabók of the ninth and tenth centuries. Var: Muireann. Rendered into English with Marion.

Muirgen Y a' Irish Gaelic name from CC: *mori- "sea" + *geno- "born," making it cognate with MORIEN. The Irish name, however, was used as both a male and female name. St. Muirgen (also known as Liban), started off as a mermaid, who lived in Lough Neagh for three hundred years. Having been caught in the nets of a fisherman, she was baptized by St. Comgall-and promptly died. Her story is about as overt as it gets regarding the Christianization of Pagan deities on the Celtic fringe. Var: Muirghen, Muirin.

Mulan Y Chinese name-mu "tree" and "wood" + ldn "orchid." Hua Mulan is a legendary Chinese heroine, who is thought to have lived between the fourth and sixth centuries. She has become well known in the ESW through the 1998 Disney version of her tale-Mulan.

Mulberry ? The mulberry is best known to most people today from the children's rhyme "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush." A number people have never actually seen a mulberry bush (or rather, tree)-and wouldn't recognize it if they did. Many were planted in Britain in the early seventeenth century, when King James I got it into his head that England could rival China in the production of silk-the mulberry is famous for being the preferred food of silk worms. The scheme flopped abysmally, but many of those mulberry trees survive, especially in the parks of country houses. Said to be ruled by Mercury and Air, it is considered a plant of protection against lightning and negative energy. In Antiquity, it featured in the myth of Pyramus and Thisbe (see Pyramus). The fruit of the mulberry is one of its greatest treasures-reminiscent of blackberries, only bigger and juicier. They are rich in vitamin C. The leaves and bark are used in herbal medicine to treat a number of complaints. The name is a combination of BERRY with a corrupted form of the tree's Latin name-morum. 19th C.

Mullein cc Y A mature mullein is an impressive sight, towering at two meters and more in height with a dramatic spire of yellow flowers. The plant is also known for its enormous velvety leaves, responsible for its other names such as our lady's flannel, old man's flannel, velvet dock, and feltwort. Anglo-Norman: moleine, probably < L: mollis "soft" another reference to the leaves-or possibly W: melyn "yellow." Ruled by Saturn and Fire, the Mullein has long been used in folk-medicine. The flammability of

the leaves meant that they were once used for lamp-wicks, and it was believed that Witches continued to use them as such even after wicks began to be made from cotton, hence another of its country names-hag's taper. Its association with candles and its stately giant candle-like appearance also gave it the name Our Lady's candle. Medicinally, it is used for various respiratory complaints, including colds, coughs, and laryngitis, as well as to treat urinary tract infections, rheumatism, and insomnia. Late 19th C.

Muna Y Arabic name-muniah "wish." In more than one African language, such as Kibosho, muna means "child." In Romani, it means "golden necklace." Var: MONA.

Mungo cc Latinized form of Munghu, an epithet of St. Kentigern, by which he is usually known in Scotland. CC: *movo- "my" (which became mo in Irish and fy in Welsh) + *kwon- "dog" jr: cu and W: ci)-i.e. "my dog." In the Middle Ages, it was glossed as carissimus amicus "dearest friend," suggesting that "dog" in this context is being used more with the meaning "companion" or "pet." It is important to remember that while the word "dog" has acquired largely derogatory associations when applied to people in English, this was not the case in the Celtic languages; the word features in a number of Celtic personal names, and dogs in Celtic myth are always portrayed positively. It has been in use in Scotland since the late Middle Ages.

Murcia Y An obscure Roman Goddess identified with Venus, who is regarded as the Goddess of sloth.'This peculiar attribution probably arose as a misunderstanding regarding the origin of one of Venus's surnames-Mytea. In Latin, this easily shifted to Murcia-halfway-house forms attested include Murtea and Murtia-and murcia looks like L: murceus "slothful," "slow," "sluggish," and "inactive." Late 19th C.

Murdina ? Scottish feminine form of MURDOCH. Late 18th C.

Murdoch e Anglicized form of Gaelic Muireadhach. It was taken to Yorkshire before the Norman Conquest by Vikings from Ireland, and examples of the name in the form Murdac, Murdoc, and Meurdoch occur in the Domesday Book as names of men who held land during the reign of King Edward the Confessor. Examples in the Middle Ages of Mordoc in

Wales and Mariedoc in Shropshire may represent the Irish name or local forms of MERIADOC. Murdoch probably derives from PIE: *mor- or *mer- "man," "human." From this root comes L: maritus "husband," San: mdrya "young man," and MORWYN. Given that in Old Irish, muire meant "steward" and muireadhach itself meant "lord," this seems most likely. Murdoch has never been out of use in Scotland; in Ireland, it largely merged with Muircheartach (see Murtagh). Var: Muiredach, Muirioch (Ir Ga); Muireach (Sc Ga); MURTAGH (It); Murdo (Sc). Bearers: Murdoch Stewart (1362-1425), the Regent of Scotland when King James I of Scotland was held captive in England.

Murenda Y Shona: murenda-the name of an African species of black cuckoo.

Muriel Y There seems little doubt that Muriel is a Celtic name in origin; what makes it remarkable is that it became so well established across Britain in the Middle Ages. CC: *mori- "sea" + *gelwo- "yellow" and "white." In Ireland, this became gel which carried the additional meanings of "fair" and "shining." Muirgel, Muirgheal, and Muiriol are the Irish forms. It was taken up by the Norse invaders of Ireland, who may have taken it back to Scandinavia as Myrgjol. It was certainly bestowed upon the daughter of a Viking King of Dublin. Muriel itself is found in Brittany in the eleventh century, and seems to have been introduced to England by the Normans. Var: Miriald, Miriel, Miriold, Miriolda, Mirielis, Miriella, Muriella, Maryell, Meryell, Meriel, Meriella (hist). Meryl and Meryll are found from the seventeenth century. Merilda, Miralda, and Mirelda joined the throng in the nineteenth. Its appearance in Dinah Craik's John Halifax, Gentleman (1856) was largely responsible for its revival in the latter nineteenth century. Bearers: Muriel Rukeyser (1913-80), the American poet; Muriel Spark (1918-2006), the Scottish novelist; Muriel Heslop, the central character in the Australian film Muriel's Wedding (1994).

Murna Y Generally in the ESW, Murna is a variant of MYRNA. In Hausa, murna means "rejoicing" and "gladness."

Murphy ' Y Irish surname-the Anglicized form of O Murchadh "descendant of Murchadh." Murchadh is a traditional name derived from O1: muir "sea"

+ cadh "warrior." Bearers: Murphy Brown, heroine of American sitcom Murphy Brown (1988-98). 18th C.

Murray Scottish surname, from the County of Moray in Scotland. Sc Ga: muir "sea." 17th C. Bearers: Murray Ball (b. 1939), the New Zealand-born cartoonist.

Murron Y Murron was coined for the 1995 film Braveheart as the name of the wife of William Wallace. Originally, the character was going to be called Marion-the name she was given in an account by the fifteenth-century Blind Harry in Actes and Deidis of the Illustre and Valyeant Campioun Schir William Wallace (c. 1477). It is presumably modeled on MUIRENN or MUIRGEN. Late 20th C. Var: Mirren.

Murtagh c~ Anglicized form of Irish Gaelic Muirheartach and Muireadhach (see Murdoch). Muirheartach is composed of muir "sea" + ceart "right" and "ordered"-it is often interpreted as meaning "(skilled) mariner." In the past, it was rendered into English by Mortimer, Monty, and Maurice. The surname O Muirheartaigh is often Anglicized as MORIARTY. Var: Murtaugh, Muirchertach. Dim: Murt, Murry.

Musa 2 c Latin: musa "muse." 19th C. The male name Musa is the Arabic, Turkish, and Russian form of MOSES.

Muscida Y Traditional name of both Omega Ursae Majoris and Pi Ursae Majoris, stars in the constellation Ursa Major-the Great Bear. The name is curious; L: muscidus "moss" < muscus "moss." It is often associated, however, with Late L: musus "muzzle" and "snout," given the star's position in the constellation, but this doesn't work very well etymologically.

Muse Y c~ The Muses-Goddesses of inspiration-are found in the earliest Greek literature. By the time of the Romans, their number had been set at nine, and each was named and had a specific sphere of influence-although there was no complete consensus as to what these were. Generally regarded as daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, they have also been bestowed upon Gaia and Uranus-and the Goddess Harmonia. The standard cohort is as follows: Calliope (epic poetry), Clio (history), Erato (lyric poetry), Euterpe (flute-playing), Melpomene (tragedy), Polyhymnia (sacred song),

Terpsichore (dancing), 'Ithalia (comedy), and Urania (astronomy). The word "muse" itself has passed into English to mean a source of inspiration. L: MUSA. The surname Muse is a variant of Moyse < MOSES. Muse is also used as a variant of the Arabic name Musa. 19th C.

Music Y c~ The English word "music" derives from L: MUSICA. Early 20th C.

Musica Y Latin: musica "the art of music" < MUSA. First used in Italy in the nineteenth century, entering the ESW in the early twentieth.

Music Y c~ The boy's name Music is the Ethiopian form of MOSES. The girl's name is a modern coinage based on MUSE-although it is possible it began as a pet-form of one of the names beginning with Mus- including Musidora, a nineteenth-century blend of Muse and DORA. Early 20th C.

Musk c~ Y Musk is a substance secreted from a gland situated near the rectum of the male musk deer. It has long been used in perfumery-the deer is killed in order to extract the musk. MF: must < Late L: muscus "musk" < Gr: moskhos < Persian musk "testicle"-so named because of the resemblance and situation of the gland. The word is now not just used of musk proper but of other substances which resemble or imitate it, natural and synthetic. Its fragrance has led to it being applied to other things noted for their aroma, such as the musk apple and musk pear. Late 19th C.

Mustafa cc Arabic name-mustafa "chosen (one)." Var: Mustapha, Moustafa.

Mwezi 2 a' Swahili: mwezi "moon." Mwezi mkubwa means "full moon," and mwezi mchanga means "new moon."

Myfanwy Y Medieval Welsh name-intensifying prefix my- + OW: manwy "fine," "delicate," and "rare." Resurrected in Wales in the mid-nineteenth century, and popularized by Joseph Parry's song "Myfanwy" (1875)-still much sung and played in Wales to this day.

Myfyr c Welsh: myfyr "meditation" and "contemplation." Late 19th C.

Myla Y Myla first occurs in the late nineteenth century, making it unlikely to be derived from Mylene. It may simply have been developed as a variant of Myra, or blend of Myra or Myrtle with one of the many names ending in -la fashionable at the time. Bearers: Myla Goldberg (b. 1972), an American novelist. The tennis player Roger Federer named one of his twin daughters Myla in 2009.

Mylanie Y Mylanie is usually considered to be a form of MELANIE-or even treated as an invented name. However, the earliest example of Mylanie in use-in America in the 1930s-is as the name of a Polish immigrant, which suggests it may have first arisen as an attempt to render a Polish name into English. Possibilities for the Polish original are MALINA and MILENA, though the most likely is perhaps Melania, the original form of Melanie, which is still used in Poland. However, the name is so rare that later examples may well have been coined independently, possibly as variants of names such as MYLENE or MEILANI-or simply Melanie. Var: Mylani.

Mylene 2 Anglicized form of French Mylene, which arose as a short form of the double name Marie-Helene-a combination of MARIE with Helene, the French form of HELEN. An intermediary form is Marylene. 20th C. Var: Miene (Fr), Myleene.

Mylitta Y Greek form of Mullitu, the Assyrian name of the Goddess Ninlil. She was associated in the ancient world with Aphrodite. Akkadian: male "to become full." Late 19th C.

Myoliy Xhosa: myoli "lovely."

Myra Y Myra seems to have been invented by the Elizabethan poet Fulke Greville (1554-1628). The probable source is L: mirus "wonderful," "marvelous," "astonishing," and "extraordinary," the feminine of which is mira. Alternatively, he may have drawn inspiration from Gr: muron "sweet oil" and "perfume." Var: Mira. 18th C. Bearers: Myra Hindley (1942-2002), a notorious British child-murderer, who has thoroughly tarnished the name in the British Isles; Myra Breckinridge (1968) is a novel by Gore Vidal.

Myrddin c Welsh form of MERLIN-from which Merlin derives in the following way: the Welsh name for the town of Carmarthen in West Wales is Caerfyrddin-and has been for a thousand years and more. At some point in the early Middle Ages, this was interpreted as a combination of caer "fort" (specifically used of places where the Romans had had a fort) with a personal name-Myrddin. Myrddin, however, is actually the medieval form of L: Moridunum- the name which Carmarthen bore in the Roman period. CC: *mori- "sea" + *d3no- "fort" and "rampart." This was probably coined by the Romano-Britons simply as the name of the town-it certainly suits it. However, both elements feature in Celtic personal names, and so it is just possible that Moridunum was named after someone called *Moridunus. Merlin's "real" name is usually taken to be Ambrosius-Emrys in Welsh-and in some texts, he is called Myrddin Emrys. Whether Myrddin was originally a personal name or not, it was used as a given name in the Middle Ages, and was revived in Wales in the nineteenth century.

Myrene 2 The name of an Amazon in Greek mythology. It is probably from Gr: marine < murrin~--itself an Attic form of MYRSINE-or marines "sweet wine." 19th C.

Myristica Y The botanical name of nutmeg (and also mace), bestowed upon it in the eighteenth century by Linnaeus. Late L: myristicus "fragrant" < Gr: muristikos "fragrant" < murizo "to rub with ointment" and "to anoint" < muron "sweet oil," "perfume." The nutmeg was being called nux myristica in Latin texts as early as the fourteenth century.

Myrna 2 Anglicized form of Irish Muirne, which features in Irish mythology as the name of Finn McCool's mother. Jr Ga: muirn "joy" and "affection." 19th C. Var: Morna, Murna.

Myron c~ Ancient Greek name-muron "sweet oil" and "perfume." Myron of Eleutherae (fl. 480-440 BCE) was a celebrated sculptor. 17th C.

Myrrh a Y The myrrh tree is native to the Arabian Peninsula and parts of East Africa, principally Ethiopia. It has been valued since ancient times for the fragrant resin it produces. Ruled by the Moon and Water, one of myrrh's principal uses since the days of Ancient Egypt has been as an incense; it was burned in the temples of Ra and Isis, and was used by the Egyptians as

part of the embalming process hence its association with death. It is one of the gifts the three Magi in the Bible. As a result of its association with Jesus, it also came to stand for suffering. As a medicinal herb, it has been used since ancient times to treat infected wounds, as well as digestive complaints and bronchial infections. In modern magic, it is still strongly associated with protection, purification and healing. Garden myrrh is another name for sweet cicely. Gr: MYRRHA. Late 19th C.

Myrrha 2 Greek: murrha "myrrh." The ultimate origin is Semitic, and it probably arrived in Greece through trade with the Phoenicians. It is ancient-it was known to the Akkadians as murru in the nineteenth century BCE. Murru comes from the proto-Semitic: *mar "bitter" (in the sense of taste)-the same source as MARAH. In Greek mythology, Myrrha was the mother of Adonis. She incurred the wrath of Aphrodite, who made her fall in love with her own father. Myrrha then contrived to sleep with him and inevitably fell pregnant. When he found out, he tried to kill her; the Gods took pity on her and turned her into the myrrh tree, from which Adonis was cut at the end of his gestation. 19th C.

Myrrhis Y Greek and Latin name for sweet cicely, now used as that plant's botanical name. Gr: murrhis < muron "sweet oil" and "perfume"-the form influenced by MYRRH.

Myrsine ? Greek: mursine "myrtle." It was also used to mean "myrtle-branch" and "myrtle-wreath." The variant Myrsina features in a Modern Greek fairy-tale reminiscent of Snow White. Var: Myrrhine.

Myrtea ? Epithet of Venus. L: myrteus "of MYRTLE." 19th C.

Myrtle ? Ruled by Venus and Water, myrtle is a plant associated with love, peace, fertility, and youth. A garland of myrtle is recommended when working love spells, and sprigs of myrtle can be used as talismans to preserve love; this association with love goes back to ancient times when it was considered sacred to Venus. Unsurprisingly, it carries this meaning in the language of flowers-along with remembrance. It is used in herbal medicine to treat urinary infections and respiratory conditions such as bronchial congestion and dry coughs. The oil can be used externally to treat acne. Mentions of the myrtle are frequent in poetry. OF: mirtille "myrtle" <

myrtillus "myrtle berry" < L: myrtus "myrtle." Use dates to the seventeenth century, when it is found as both a male and female name. The male name is probably related to the surname-a variant of Martel, which arose as a diminutive of MARTIN. Var: Myrtilla. Bearers: Myrtle Wilson, a character in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925); "Moaning" Myrtle, a ghost in the Harry Potter series.

Mystery Y e Latin: mysterium "secret rites"-later "mystical truth" and "religious truth" < Gr: musterion "secret rites," "secret," "mystery" < mued "to initiate into the Mysteries" < mud "to close" and "to shut" i.e. to shut out all those who were not initiated from knowing the tenets of the religion and witnessing or participating in its rites. To some extent, it could be argued that the concept of "mystery" was the downfall of ancient Paganism. The notion that profound and spiritually changing knowledge was "secret" and could only be divulged to initiates led to a culture of exclusion and exclusivity in the ancient world. Many Mysteries only admitted certain groups in society, invariably the elite, be it military or social. This left a gaping vacuum; all the slaves and poorest in society were denied the privileges of membership of one of the Mystery cults until Christianity came along-another Mystery religion from the East, but one that was open to all. In modern general usage, "mystery" has lost its association with secret religions, but it still retains its romantic and evocative air. 19th C.

Mystic Y Late Latin: mysticum "mystical doctrine" < Gr: mustikos "connected with the Mysteries" < mustes "one initiated." The English "mystic" was originally used to mean "mystical meaning"; it acquired the meaning "exponent of mystical theory" or "person who seeks mystical experiences" in the seventeenth century. Because it was taken up early by the Church, the word "mystic" has not acquired the negative overtones of the word "occult," and is frequently used in a Christian context. 20th C. Var: Mystical; Mystique (Fr).

Mystica Y Latin: mysticus "of secret rites," "belonging to Mysteries," "mystic," and "mystical." Rosa Mystica-the "mystic rose"-is a title of the Virgin Mary. 20th C.

Mzuma ? Swahili: mzuma-an archaic word denoting "one who believes in magical powers," deriving from the verb suffix -zua "to discover," "to invent," and "to reflect," etc.

Na'il Gi Arabic name-nail "winner." Fem: Na'ila.

Nabil a Arabic name-nabil "noble." Var: Nabeel. Fem: Nabila.

Nabu e The name of the Akkadian God of writing and wisdom, the son of Marduk. Akkadian: nabu "to name," an allusion to the fact it is he who writes down each person's destiny, as decided by the Gods. The well-known biblical Nebuchadnezzar of the Bible means "may Nabu safeguard my firstborn son" (Akkadian: Nabu-kudurri-usur). Var: Nebo.

Nada Y Arabic name-nada "morning dew." In some Slavic languages, such as Serbian, nada means "hope," while in Spanish and Portuguese it means "nothing." San: nada "sound"-a type of yoga which functions on the premise that the whole cosmos is composed of sound vibrations. Nada is the heroine in H. Rider Haggard's Nada the Lily (1892).

Nadezhda Y Russian name-nadezhda "hope." 20th C. Dim: NADIA. Fr: NADINE, Pol: Nadzieja.

Nadia Y Russian short form of NADEZHDA, used across the Slavic world. It is also used as a variant of Arabic Nadiyya, meaning "wet with dew." Late 19th C. Var: Nadya. Bearers: Nadia Comaneci (b. 1961), the Romanian gymnast; Nadia Petrova (b. 1982), the Russian tennis player; Nadia Sawalha (b. 1964), the British actress.

Nadim a' Arabic name-nadama "to drink"; interpreted as "drinking companion," thus "friend" and "confidant." Var: Nadeem.

Nadine Y French form of NADEZHDA. Late 19th C.

Nadir a Arabic name-nadir "rare" and "precious." Fem: Nadira.

Nagendra c~ Indian name. San: naga "snake" (referring specifically to the cobra) + INDRA.

Nahele d' 2 Hawaiian: nahele "forest," "grove," and "wilderness." "Puia ka Nahele" ("the fragrant forest") was a song written in 1868 by the celebrated

Hawaiian composer Liliuokalani.

Nahid ? The modern Persian form of Anahita (see AnaIs). In Middle Persian, her name was Anahid. Nahid is still the Persian name of the planet Venus, and is used as a girl's name throughout the Islamic world. Var: Naheed.

Nahla ? Arabic name-nahla "drink' or nahla "bee."

Nahum c' Biblical name. Heb: nachum "consolation," "comfort," and "compassion." 16th C. Bearers: Nahum Tate (1652-1715), the Irish poet and playwright.

Nairn cc Arabic name meaning "happy" and "peaceful"; it is cognate with both NAOMI and NOAM. In the Qu'ran it is used as the name of one of the gardens of Paradise. Var: Na'im. Fem: Naima, Na'ima.

Nairn c? Y Scottish surname, from Nairn in Scotland, named after the river on which it is situated. Possibly CC: *nanto- "stream" + *werno- "alder." 19th C. Var: Nairne.

Naffs 2 Greek: nais "water-nymph" < nao "to flow." In France, used as a short form of ANAIS. 19th C. Var: NaIas (hist).

Naisha y Indian name. San: naisa "nightly." Var: Naiza.

Nakta y Indian name. San: nakti "night." Var: Nakti.

Nala c~ 2 In Hindu mythology, Nala is the name of a king chosen by the princess Damayanti as her husband. San: nala "tube," "tap," and "reed"-the word is also used for the fiftieth year of a cycle of Jupiter (lasting sixty years). Bearers: Nala, a character (lion) in Disney's The Lion King (1994)this may be Lozi: nala "brown with large white spots." Nala also happens to be ALAN spelled backwards.

Nalani Y c~ Hawaiian name-na "the" (plural), "calmed," "belonging to," or "from" + lani "heaven" and "sky."

Namfon Y `Thai name-nam "water" + fon "rain."

Nan Y Usual pet-form of ANN in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. By the end of the seventeenth century, Nan had become a generic term for a maidservant, loose woman, and effeminate man. Its diminutive Nanny fared little better-it became a name for a female goat and a woman employed to look after children.

Nanaya 2 The name of a Sumerian Goddess of sex and war. She is closely associated with Inanna and Ishtar. Like them, she is a daughter of An and associated with Venus. Her name appears to be a reduplication (for emphasis) of na "human being" and "incense" + a "water"-this includes water in all its forms, including "tears" and "seminal fluid," leading to its other meanings of "offspring" and "father." Var: Nanaja, Nana.

Nancy Y Pet-form of ANN. 18th C. By the early nineteenth century it had come to be used as a slang term for the buttocks, and, by the end of that century, for an effeminate or homosexual man. Var: Nancie, Dim: Nance. Bearers: Anne "Nancy" Reagan (b. 1921), the American actress and former First Lady; Nancy, Viscountess Astor (1879-1964), the first British woman MP; Nancy, the tragic pickpocket in Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* (1838).

Nanda c~ 2 Sanskrit: nandi "joy." Although originally a boy's name, it is now also used for girls.

Nandor a Hungarian name. The origins aren't entirely clear; it is treated as the Hungarian form of FERDINAND, but it is thought to have a Slavic origin. There is evidence to suggest that in the past, ndndor was used to refer to Bulgarians living along the Danube.

Nanette 2 Originally, a French diminutive form of ANN. 19th C. The 1925 musical *No, No, Nanette* is largely responsible for its use in the twentieth century. Var: Nannette.

Nani Y Hawaiian name-nani "beauty," "glory," and "splendor." In a number of African languages, nani means "eight."

Nanna a Y A name borne by two deities. The first is the Sumerian God of the moon and father of the Goddess Inanna. His name certainly carried the meaning "moon," but its exact origins are unclear. The second is the entirely

unrelated Norse Goddess, the wife of Baldr, who is also known as Nanna Nepsdottir. Once again, the exact meaning of her name is uncertain, but it may plausibly be related to OG: nana "mother."

Nanshe 2 The name of a Sumerian Goddess of prophecy, justice, fertility, and fishing. The daughter of Enki and Ninhursag, she is also a patron Goddess of orphans. She also presides over weights and measurements, and is the guarantor of boundaries. Her symbols are the fish and the pelican both of which were later appropriated by Christianity. The etymology is problematic; the second element is Sumerian: se grain.

Nantosuelta Y The name of a Gaulish Goddess, the consort of Sucellus, who is associated with the raven. Little is known about her, although it has been suggested that she is a psychopomp. CC: *nanto- "stream" and "valley" + *suw-o- "to turn" and "to wind" or *sfwol- "sun"-the latter, just possibly, hinting at a connection with the Summerlands.

Nanwen 2 Modern Welsh name-NAN + gwyn. Mid20th C.

Nao c' Y Japanese name-nao "upright" and thus "honest." It is also found in combinations such as the girls' names NAOMI and Naoko-"honest child" or "docile child"-and the boy's name Naoki-"honest tree."

Naoise C?' Irish Gaelic name found in Irish mythology as the name of a handsome young warrior of the Red Band of Ulster-lover of the beautiful Deirdre. His death, caused by his uncle Conchobhar mac Nessa, led to Deirdre dying of grief The etymology is very uncertain; just possibly, it may be CC: *nowyo- "new," perhaps related to Celtiberian: nouiza.

Naomh 2 Irish Gaelic: naomh "holy" and "saint." Late 20th C.

Naomi Y Biblical name. Heb: "pleasantness." 16th C. It: Noemi, Hun: Noemi, Fr: Noemie. Naomi has also been adopted as a Japanese name-nao "honest" + mi "beautiful," its use largely due to Junichiro Tanizaki's novel Naomi (1947).

Naphtali c' Y Biblical name. Heb: "my struggle." This was said to be the name of one of the sons of Jacob, but it is unlikely it was ever borne by a

historical figure; rather, the character was probably invented to explain the name of the tribe. 17th C. In recent times, it has been used for girls as well as boys.

Napoleon cc French: Napoleon < It: Neapoleone "of Neapolis"-i.e. Naples. Neapoleone or Napoleone is the name of a fourth-century saint, and the name has been used in Italy from medieval times, but it was little known before the days of the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)-born Napoleone Buonaparte. 19th C.

Nara a' Y Unisex Indian name. San: nara "man." It is the name of one of a pair of Hindu Gods, known together as Nara-Narayana. Incarnations of Vishnu, they are envisaged as twins; Nara is the eternal human soul and Narayana is the divine soul. Nara is also an Armenian girl's name which arose as a short form of Gyulnara, the Armenian form of GULNAR. It is also the name of an ethnic group who live in Eritrea, a Russian river, and a Japanese city which gave its name to an epoch of Japanese history in the eighth century CE. It can also mean "oak" in Japanese.

Naran Y Mongolian name-naran "sun." The girls' names Narantuya and Narantsetseg combine naran with tayaa "beam," and tsetseg "flower," while the boy's name Naranbaatar combines it with baatar "hero."

Narayan c' Indian name. San: nara "man" + ayana "way." One of the names of Vishnu.

Narbhflaith y Old Irish: ndr "modest" and "noble" + flaith "sovereignty" and "ruler." Anglicized as Narvla. Var: Narbflaith, Narbhla.

Narcissa Y Feminine form of NARCISSUS. 18th C. It was used by Alexander Pope in his Moral Essays (1731-35), and by Tobias Smollett in The Adventures of Roderick Random (1748). Narcissa "Cissy" Malfoy is a Witch the Harry Potter series.

Narcissus c?' The name of the beautiful youth in Greek mythology, who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool and wasted away on its banks. He was loved by Echo, but scorned her love. After his death, he was transformed into the narcissus flower. Gr: narke-"numbness" < narkoo "to

numb. "The name was not uncommon in ancient times especially for slaves- and was borne by more than one saint. 16th C. It, Port, Sp: Narciso, Fr: Narcisse.

Nareli Y Romani name recorded in the nineteenth century. The etymology is uncertain. It is unlikely to derive from NEROLI-although this can't be ruled out. A more likely source is Honorilla, a diminutive of HONOR.'This is also recorded in forms such as Onerella and Onarilla, and Nareli may represent a further Romani contraction of it. Var: Nerilly.

Narelle ? An Australian girl's name, used in Australia from the early twentieth century. It was said to have been the name of the wife of Umbarra, the Aboriginal elder and leader of the Yuin people of New South Wales, who died in 1904. Unfortunately, the Yuin language is extinct, and the meaning of the name is lost.

Narendra e Indian name. San: NARA + INDRA.

Nari 2 Hausa name used for a girl born on a Wednesday.

Nascien e The name of a character in Arthurian Romance. His name was originally Seraphe but became Nascien when he was baptized by the son of Joseph of Arimathea. He was an ancestor of Galahad, and features in Chretien de Troyes's Perceval in the story of the "Sword with the Strange Belt," which carried an inscription stating no one should wield it except the Chosen One (Galahad). The origin of Nascien is uncertain; it may be L: nascor "to be born," or a form of NISIEN.

Nash e English surname. ME: atte nash or atten ash "at the ash"-i.e. someone who dwelt by an ash tree. 17th C.

Nashira Y The traditional name of Gamma Capricorni, a star in Capricorn. It is occasionally occluded by the moon because of its position close to the ecliptic. Ar: nashira "good news." Regarded as lucky in the Arab lands. Var: Nashirah.

Nashoba Y c Chicksaw: nashoba "wolf"

Nasim G~ ? Arabic name-nasim "breeze" and "fragrant air." Var: Nassim, Naseem. Fem: Nasima.

Nasir c~ Arabic name-nasir "helper," "supporter" or "ally" < nasara "to render victorious." Nasr is sometimes treated as a variant, but does actually have a separate origin-Ar: nasr "vulture." Var: Nasser. Nasira is feminine.

Naskila 2 Alabama: naskila "flowering dogwood."

Nasrin 2 Persian name-nastran "eglantine" and "wild rose." It is also the Arabic name for the constellations of Aquila and Lyra. Var: Nasreen, Turk: Nesrin.

Natalie Y French form of Latin Natalia < natale "birth." This is usually considered a reference to the birth of Christ, but is equally applicable to the rebirth of the sun at the Winter Solstice. The name was often given to girls born at or around Christmas and St. Natalia was an alleged fourth-century saint, whose feast day is December 1. 19th C. It, Pol, Port, Sp: Natalia, Ru: Natalya; NATASHA (dim); Hun: Natalia. Var: Nataly, Natalee, Nathalie, Nathaly. Bearers: Natalie Wood (1938-81), the American actress (born Natalia Zacharenko); Natalie Portman (b. 1981) the Israeli-American actress.

Nataraj cc Sanskrit: nata "dancer" + raja "king." Nataraja is a name of Shiva. He dances in order to dance away an old universe until it is no more, allowing Brahma to make it anew-over and over again, the ultimate cycle of existence.

Natasha Y Russian pet-form of Natalia (see Natalie). Early 20th C. Dim: Nat, Tasha. Bearers: Natasha Richardson (1963-2009), the British actress. Var: Natacha.

Nathan c~ Biblical name. Heb: natan "given." Used historically to Anglicize NECTAN. 17th C. Var: Nathen.

Nathaniel G~ Biblical name: Heb: "(a) God has given." Another name of the apostle usually called Bartholomew. 16th C. Dim: Nat. Bearers: Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804- 64), the American author; Nathaniel "Nat"

King Cole (1919-65), the American singer. Nathaniel is a principal character in Jonathan Stroud's Bartimaeus series (2003-05).

Natsuko 2 Japanese name-natsu "summer"+ ko "child." A similar name is Natsumi, which has a number of meanings depending on the kanji used, such as "summer beauty," "summer fruit," "summer sea," and "summer life."

Naughton c~ Scottish surname, a variant of MacNaughton "son of Neachdann." Neachdann is a Scots Gaelic variant of NECHTAN. Naughton is used in Scotland to render Neachdann and Nechtan into English. 18th C.

Naunet 2 Egyptian Goddess, the feminine aspect of the God Nu, who is also called Nun. Egyptian: n-wn "sky body of water." Nu/Naunet is the God/Goddess of the ocean. Var: Nunet, Nenet.

Nausicaa Y The name of the daughter of King Alcinous of the Phaeacians, she falls head over heels in love with Odysseus after he is washed up on her shore after his seven years with Calypso. Possibly Gr: naus "ship" + kaio "to light" or "to kindle." 20th C.

Nayeli Y Mexican name. Isthmus Zapotec: Nadxielii "I love you." Var: Nadxieli, Nadxielli. 20th C.

Naz y Turkish name-naz "coyness" and "coquettishness."

Nazareth 2 cc Biblical place name. It is generally agreed that the name as we have it today came through the Greek, but beyond that the etymology is disputed. Options include Heb: netser "shoot" or "sprout," and Heb: notserah "guarding" or "watching"-perhaps a reference to the hill behind the town which affords a natural look-out point. 16th C. Sp: Nazaret.

Nazario e Spanish and Portuguese name deriving from NAZARETH. Latin Nazarius was used by early Christians, and there is at least one Catholic saint of the name. Fr: Nazaire.

Neamh Y a' Irish Gaelic: neamh "heaven." Use has probably been inspired by NIAMH. Late 20th C.

Neamhan Y Superficially, this appears to be a diminutive form of NEAMH, thus meaning "little heaven." However, it is more likely to be a reworking of NEMAIN in order to furnish it with a more attractive meaning.

Nebula Y Latin: nebula "cloud"-used in English for the cloudy, fuzzy astronomical bodies that appear as galaxies or clouds of dust. Some are visible with the naked eye, such as the Andromeda Galaxy and the Orion Nebula. 20th C.

Nechtan The name of an Irish God, the father or husband of the Goddess Boann. 01: neacht "pure" + dim. suffix -dn. It is quite likely he is the same as the Cornish NECTAN, and the name may have originated as an epithet of Nuada. Nechtan is also the name of a number of Pictish kings. Jr Ga: Neachtan, Neachdann-Anglicized as Naughton.

Nectan c' The name of a saint revered in Cornwall and Devon and also found in Brittany. He was said to be of Welsh birth, one of the many children of Brychan Brycheiniog.'The name is probably cognate with NECHTAN, deriving from CC: *nixto- "clean"-and it is quite likely that Nechtan and Nectan are one and the same. Nectan also appears in some versions of the Grail Cycles.

Nectar G~ Y Greek: nektar "nectar"-the name of the drink of the Gods. It is now used to refer to the fluid containing various sugars secreted by plants to attract bees and other pollinators. 19th C. Nektarios is a Greek name which derives from Nectar and has been used from ancient times, Latinized as Nectarius. Fem: Nectaria.

Ned c~ A traditional short form of EDWARD, it is also used for other names beginning with Ed-. 18th C. Bearers: Thomas Edward Lawrence "of Arabia" (1888-1935), the British intelligence officer, archaeologist, and writer, who was always called Ned by his family; Edward "Ned" Kelly (1854/55-80), the famous Australian outlaw and folk-hero.

Nedusia Y Epithet of Athene, deriving from the River Nedon in the Southern Peloponnese where she had a sanctuary.'The meaning of Nedon is unknown and probably preGreek.

Neema y Swahili: neema "prosperity," "abundance," "favor," and "grace."

Nefer c~ ? Egyptian: nfr "beautiful" and "handsome." It was used in Egyptian names, such as Nefertiti-"the beautiful one has arrived"-the name of the fourteenth-century BCE Queen of Egypt. 20th C.

Neferkare c~ The Egyptian name of the eighth-century BCE Nubian Pharaoh Shabaka. Egyptian: nfr "beautiful" + M "soul" + RA.

Nefyn 2 a Nefyn has the appearance of deriving from CC: *nemos-"heaven" and "sky", thus making it cognate with NEAMH. However, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that its origins lie with a Celtic deity-and it may be that Nefyn is actually cognate with NEMAIN or NICEVENN. She may even be linked to NEMETONA.'The Nefyn of legend was a daughter of King Brychan Brycheiniog, and mother of Urien of Rheged. Today, however, it is best known as the name of a small town on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales, site of a well-preserved Iron Age hill-fort.'This may well take its name from the same source, although there is no explicit link. 20th C. Var: Nyfain, Neving. A woman called Neving was tried for Witchcraft in Scotland in 1590. She was excommunicated.

Nehalennia 2 A Gaulish Goddess, whose worship was centered in the province of Zeeland in the Netherlands. Her name appears on no less than twenty-eight inscriptions discovered at Domburg, and there are many others elsewhere. The etymology unknown; it may be of Celtic or Germanic origin, but nothing convincing has yet been proposed. It is just possible it derives from the same PIE root that gave Gr: naus and L: navis "ship." She is believed to be a Goddess of the sea, divination, and the Otherworld. She is always depicted with a boat and often also with apples and a large but gentle dog at her feet. Apples are a symbol of the Gods and the Otherworld. Meanwhile, the dog is associated with divination, hunting and the Otherworld. She is possibly connected with Freyja or Nerthus. Var: Nenhellenia.

Nehemiah cc Biblical name. Heb: "consolation of Yahweh." 16th C. Bearers: Nehemiah Grew (1641-1712), the English botanist known as "the Father of Plant Physiology."

Neifile y Greek: nephele "cloud." A name used by Boccaccio for one of the seven young women at the heart of the Decameron.

Neil c~ The usual English form of the Gaelic Niall. 'The origin is not entirely certain; it may be from Jr Ga: niadh "honor" and "veneration," niach "champion" or neul and nial "cloud." Niall of the Nine Hostages was a legendary fourth-century king of Ireland. He gained his crown by kissing an old hag guarding a well, after his brothers had all refused. He was only after a drink of water, but at his kiss, the hag transformed into a beautiful woman, who told him she was the Goddess of the sovereignty of all Ireland (see Flaithias)- and made him king. All Pagan Irish high kings undertook a symbolic marriage with the Goddess.'The name was so common in Ireland and Scotland in the Middle Ages, that it was adopted by the Vikings, appearing in Iceland as Njal at an early date. By the time of the Normans, it was an established name in Scandinavia, and was introduced to England in the forms Nel and Nele, Latinized as Nigellus. Revived in the ESW in the twentieth century. Var: Neal, Neale. Bearers: Neil Armstrong (b. 1930), the first human to walk on the moon; Neil Gaiman (b. 1960) the English author.

Neit G~ Y As a male name, Neit is the name of the Irish God of war and consort of Nemain. His name also appears as Neit, Net, and Neith. He is almost certainly one and the same with the Celtiberian God whose name is preserved on two inscriptions in Spain as Neto and Neito; in the first he is identified with Mars. CC: *nei-to- "passion." As a female name, Neit is a variant of NEITH.

Neith Y cc The name of an Egyptian Goddess, also known as Nit, Net, and NEIT. She is a Goddess of war, hunting, and weaving, making her fairly comparable with Athene. Ancient Egyptians believed that all life was brought about through her weaving. She is entirely unrelated, however, to the Irish God Neit, although Neith is sometimes used as a variant of his name. Egyptian: nt "portion," "water," and "slaughter."

Nekayah Y In Samuel Johnson's The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia (1759), Nekayah is the name of a princess, the highly intelligent sister of Rasselas, who accompanies her brother on his travels.'The meaning is uncertain; if it appeared in Jeronimo Lebo's Voyage

to Abyssinia (1735), which Johnson translated and from where he got the name of Rasselas, it may possibly be derived from Amharic: naka "to wake," or kaye "scarlet." 20th C.

Nelda 2 A late nineteenth-century elaboration of NELL with the suffix -da, inspired by similar names in use at the time such as Hilda, Tilda, Elda, and Zelda. Nelda Shrimp is one of the "fisher folk," a race invisible except to those with the sixth sense, in Robin Jarvis's *The Whitby Witches* (1991).

Nelka 2 Slavic pet-form of PETRONILLA and ELENA. Late 19th C.

Nell 2 Originally a short form of ELEANOR, Nell has also been used as a short form of ELLEN and HELEN since at least the seventeenth century. Var: Nel, Nelle. Dim: NELLIE. Bearers: Eleanor "Nell" Gwyn (1650-87), the Restoration actress and mistress of King Charles II. "Little" Nell Trent is a principal character in Charles Dickens's *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1840), and Nelle Porter was a character in the American television series *Ally McBeal* (1997-2002).

Nellie Y Pet-form of ELEANOR, ELLEN, HELEN, etc. The name's fortunes have not been helped by the song "Nellie the Elephant" (1956), its use as a slang term for an effeminate or homosexual man, and the expression "not on your Nelly" meaning "not on your life." However the fame of Canadian singer Nelly Furtado (b. 1978) may have made people start to re-evaluate the name, and there are signs that attitudes towards it are changing. Var: Nelly. Nelly LongArms is the name given to malevolent "mermaids" in certain Yorkshire and Shropshire lakes-akin to Jenny Greenteeth and Peg Powler found elsewhere.

Nelson cc English surname-"son of NEIL." Used largely in honor of the British admiral and national hero Admiral Horatio, Lord Nelson (1758-1805). Bearers: Nelson Mandela (b. 1918), who fought tirelessly against the oppression and injustice of apartheid to eventually become President of South Africa.

Nelumbo Y Botanical name of the lotus. The name was devised by Linnaeus from the Sinhalese name for the plant.

Nemain 2 In Irish mythology, Nemain appears as a fairy spirit of the frenzy of battle. She almost certainly represents one of the three Goddesses who constitute the Morrigan as a Triple Goddess of war. The etymology is not clear; it may possibly be CC: *namant- "enemy," though a more seductive option is PIE: *nem- "to seize," "to take," or "to deal out," which would make Nemain cognate with NEMESIS. Nor is it impossible that her roots lie with NEMETONA. Var: NEAMHAN, Neman, Nemon.

Nemesis Y The Goddess of divine retribution. Gr: nemesis "distribution of what is due," "retribution," and "righteous anger" < nemo "to deal out" and "to distribute." 18th C.

Nemetona Y Celtic Goddess. CC: *nemeto- "sacred place" and "sanctuary." A Goddess, therefore, of sacred places-perhaps specifically the sacred groves of the Druids. Relics of her worship in the Roman period have been found in Bath and Germany.

Nene c Y A river in the East of England. The etymology is uncertain, but it is likely to be Celtic, possibly CC: *nino "ash-tree." Neane is recorded as the name of a woman tried for Witchcraft in Scotland in 1643. What happened to her is unknown.

Nenia y Latin: nenia "funeral song," "lament," "dirge," "lullaby," "nursery rhyme," and "incantation"-essentially any type of slow, repetitive song.

Nennius cc The name of a ninth-century Welsh monk famous for his Historia Brittanorum. Almost certainly, Nennius is a Latinized form of NINIAN-although the early variant Nemnivus/Nemnius hints that perhaps it has the same source as NEFYN.

Neo e Y Greek: neos "new." Neo is attested as a cognomen in the Roman Period, when it was used as the Latin form of the Greek name Neon (now best known as a chemical element). Prior to its appearance in The Matrix film trilogy (1999-2003), it had become known mostly as a prefix meaning "new" in combinations such as "neo-classical," and "NeoPagan." Neo is also an anagram of "one." Although it was first resurrected as a name in the 1960s, most use has been since The Matrix. Meanwhile, for girls, Latin

Nova "new" has been in use since the nineteenth century, and French *Nouvel/Nouvelle* "new" since the early twentieth.

Neot c' A supposed ninth-century saint who gives his name to St. Neots in Cambridgeshire. The saint may well represent a survival of the worship of NODENS. The legend goes that Neot was a monk at Glastonbury prior to moving to Cornwall. Tellingly, his feast day is July 31-the eve of Lughnasadh-and he is also considered a patron saint of fish. 16th C. Var: Niot, Nyet, Nyot, Niet.

Nepenthe Y The name of an Egyptian drug mentioned by Homer in the *Odyssey*, which was used to make people forget their woes. Gr: *nepenthes* "banishing pain and sorrow."

Nephele Y Greek: *nephele* "cloud." Nephele was a semidivine figure in Greek mythology. Zeus fashioned a cloud in the image of Hera to test the integrity of their guest Ixion (he failed). Nephele later married Athamas and bore him Helle and Phrixus. After he divorced her to marry Ino, she sent a flying golden ram to rescue her children from being sacrificed at Ino's instigation. Mid-20th C.

Nepthys 2 The Greek form of Nebet-het, the name of an Egyptian Goddess. In Egyptian art, she was depicted as a young woman with a headdress in the shape of a house and basket. She is the consort and sister of Set, as well as the sister of Isis and Osiris. Egyptian: *nbt* "lady" + *Ht* "big house" and "temple." A protective deity, she is regarded as the nursing mother of Horus and the chief nurse of the reigning Pharaoh. She is also the mother of Anubis, and a Goddess of death, the experience of death, and the dead. Mid-20th C.

Neptune c~ The English form of Neptunus, the Roman God of water and the sea, equated with the Greek Poseidon and famously portrayed with a trident. It is also the name of the eighth planet of the Solar System, discovered in 1846. His name probably derives from PIE: **(e)neb-* "moist." 17th C. W: Neifion.

Ner o' Biblical name. Heb: *ner* "light" and "candle." 18th C. There is also W: *ner* "lord," now only used to mean "the Lord"-i.e. the God of the

Christians-but its original meaning was "chief" and "hero." It is ultimately cognate with both San: nara and Gr: aner "man."

Neraida y Modern Greek: neraida "pixie," "nymph," "mermaid," and "brownie" < NEREIS.

Nereis Y The name of a type of sea nymph, often called a Nereid in English, whose name derives from NEREUS. According to Greek mythology, there were fifty Nereids although the names vary depending on the source. Particularly associated with the Aegean, they were noted in ancient times for being helpful to sailors caught in dangerous storms at sea. Late 20th C.

Nereus e Nereus is a Greek sea God and a Titan, best known for being the father of the Nereids by the Oceanid Doris. The oldest son of Pontus and Gaia, he is the original "Old Man of the Sea." Like Proteus, he is a shape-shifter with the power of prophecy, and it is possible that the two Gods are one and the same. He was renowned in ancient times for his truthfulness, integrity, and gentleness. Nereus is also the name of a supposed first-century saint. Generally derived from Gr: neron "water," it may actually be the other way around; the related adjective nerōs means "of fish." 17th C.

Nergal e The name of a Babylonian God mentioned in the Bible. The son of Enlil and Ninlil, he is a God of war, pestilence, and the Underworld, as well as being associated with the sun at certain times-noon and the Summer Solstice (in Babylonia, this is the hottest, driest, and therefore deadliest time of year). The etymology is unclear. It may be a corruption of Sumerian: nin-ur-gal "lord of the great city," with it understood that "the great city" is the Underworld.

Nergis 2 Turkish-nergis "daffodil" < NARCISSUS.

Nerida Y A late nineteenth-century creation. Probably a blend of NERINA and PHYLLIDA. It has seen most use in Australia.

Nerina Y Either deriving directly from L: Nerinus "of NEREUS" or conceived as an elaborated form of NERINE. It features as the name of a nymph in Haydn's opera *La Fedeltà Premiata* (1781), and *Nerina* (1927), a

lyrical drama by English translator and poet Percy Pinkerton. 19th C.
Bearers: Nerina Shute (1908-2004), the British writer and journalist.

Nerine Y An alternative form of NEREIS used in the Roman era by authors such as Virgil, Nerine is also the name of a type of flower, including *Nerine bowdenii*, which is often called the Guernsey lily, Cape flower, or Japanese spider lily. 19th C. Fr: Nerine.

Nerissa 2 The name of the heroine of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. Shakespeare probably based the name upon NEREIS. 19th C. Bearers: Nerissa Bowes-Lyon (1919-86), a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II.

Nero c Nero was originally a cognomen of the Claudian gens, an adoption of Sabine: nero "strong"-cognate with San: nara and W: ner. It was most famously borne by the last of the Julio-Claudian Emperors, Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (27-69 CE). He was a colorful, flamboyant... and cruel individual. He arranged the death of his mother (not a particularly savory character herself) and is famous for "fiddling while Rome burned"-although this is almost certainly apocryphal. He is also well known for persecuting Christians-though this is questioned by some historians. 17th C.

Neroli Y The name given to the essential oil produced from the bitter orange tree (*Citrus aurantium* var. *amara*). Fr: neroli < Nerola-an Italian town, which almost certainly got its name from the same source as NERO. The European stateswoman Marie Anne de la Tremoille, Princesse des Ursins (1642-1722), is credited with introducing the oil, with which she perfumed her gloves and bath. Sometimes confused with Niaouli, the very similarly named essential oil, valued for its anti-bacterial and antifungal properties, which is named after the Australasian tree from which it is extracted.

Nerthus 2 The Germanic Goddess of fertility; Nerthus is often identified with NJORD. It is speculated that both derive from Proto-Germanic: *nerjuz. The meaning of this is much debated; it may be linked with Irish nert "force" and "power," but more likely it is related simply to Old Teutonic: *erJd, making it cognate with EARTH. Intriguingly a further stem *erjon- shows distinct similarity with CC: fweryon-, from which

ERIU derives. Nerthus and Njord were perhaps originally a hermaphroditic deity or a divine brother-sister pair like Freyja and Freyr. Nerthus is mentioned by the Roman historian Tacitus, who describes her as the "Earth Mother."

Nerys Y Modern Welsh name, which is probably a shortened form of GENERYS or an elaboration of W: NER. Bearers: Nerys Hughes (b. 1941), the Welsh actress. Kira Nerys was a main character in the American science-fiction series Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1993-99)-Nerys being her given name-but as she was from the planet Bajor in a far flung corner of the galaxy, it is unlikely her name was Welsh.

Nesaea Y The name of one of the Nereids. Gr: nesaïos "of an island." 19th C.

Nessa Y In Irish mythology, Nessa was the mother of Conchobhar Mac Nessa, King of Ulster. She is said to have consulted the Druid Cathbad on what day would be good to conceive a king. He replied "today"-and so she promptly took the old Druid to bed. Folk-etymology derives the name from ni "not" + seimh "gentle"-with the tale that her name was changed as a child by one of her step-fathers because she was so feisty. In reality, it is more likely 01: ness "weazel." Var: Neasa, Neas, Ness. Late 19th C.

Nessie Y A pet-form of AGNES, largely found in the Celtic fringe-Scotland, the Isle of Man, Wales, and the West Country-and used as a name in its own right from at least the eighteenth century. Nussy was particularly associated with the Isle of Man. It is best known today as the affectionate popular name for the legendary Loch Ness Monster.

Nest Y A common name in Medieval Wales, Nest is usually interpreted as being a variant of Agnes. Given the fact that the earliest example dates to the late eighth century, however, long before Agnes became established as a girl's name in the British Isles, it seems more likely the name is of Celtic origin-possibly CC: *nixto- "clean" or *nexta- "granddaughter." It may even have a Latin origin, perhaps deriving from Honestus "honest" and "respectable," a fairly common cognomen. The name just about managed to cling on into the early modern period. Revived 19th. Var: Nesta.

Nestor e In Greek mythology, Nestor, King of Pylos, is a veteran of the voyage of the Argo, the Calydonian Boar Hunt, and the Trojan War. Respected for his wisdom and good advice (although he had a tendency to prattle a bit), Telemachus visited him in the hope of learning some news of his father, Odysseus. Nestor was unable to help, but entertained the young prince lavishly. Gr: neomai "to return." 18th C.

Nettie Y Short form of names such as HENRIETTA, ANNETTE, JANET, JEANETTE, and LYNETTE. 19th C. Var: Netta, Netty.

Nettle Y e Old English: netele "nettle." "The humble nettle is frequently cursed more than it is praised, which is tremendously short-sighted, for it is one of the most useful and healing plants. Beloved by butterflies, it has been used in the past to make a type of cloth as well as a dye. It is extremely nutritious, making an excellent substitute for spinach and is particularly suited to soup and pasta recipes, as well as being a magnificent naturally caffeine-free tea. In the past, it was also brewed into a beer. In herbal medicine it is considered an excellent blood purifier and tonic for the liver." The surname derives from the plant. 19th C-many examples being Cornish.

Nevada Y cc Spanish: nevada "snowfall." "The American state takes its name from the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Nevada joined the Union in 1868. Late 19th C.

Nevaeh Y A name of recent invention. It is essentially a respelling of NIAMH, inspired by the Anglicized versions Neave and Neve, but is generally touted as "heaven" spelled backwards. It first appeared in the early 1980s and has innumerable pronunciations, such as "na-VAY-a," "na-VAY," "NI-vee-a," "NEEV," "NEEV-a," "NEE-vay," and "NEV-a." Var: Neaveh, Neveah.

Nevena Y Croatian name-neven "marigold." Dim: Nevenka.

Neville c English surname, deriving from one of the places in Normandy of the name. Middle Fr: neu "new" + ville. The Neville family, along with the likes of the Percys and the Clares, were one of the most powerful families in the British Isles in medieval times. First used in the seventeenth century,

it passed into general use in the nineteenth. Var: Nevil, Nevile. Dim: Nev. Bearers: (Arthur) Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940), the British Prime Minister; Nevil Shute (1899-1960), the English writer; Neville Longbottom, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Nevin c~ Anglicized form of Naomhan. Jr Ga: NAOMH + dim. suffix -dn. The name of a minor Irish saint (essentially, St. "Little Saint"). Var: Nevan, Niven.

Nevis C? Ben Nevis is the name of the famous Scottish mountain, the highest peak in the British Isles. Its Gaelic name is Beinn Nibheis. This may be a contracted form of Sc Ga: beinn neamh bhathais "mountain with its head in the clouds." Nevis is also the name of the stream that runs at its base. The surname, meanwhile, is either a variant of NEVIN or OE: nefa "nephew." 19th C.

Newell c~ English surname, partly a variant of NEVILLE, and partly of NOEL. 19th C.

Newton c~ English surname. OE: niwe "new" + tun. 17th C. Dim: Newt. Bearers: Newton "Newt" Gingrich (b. 1943), the American politician and former Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ngaio Y New Zealand name, from the Maori word ngaio-the name for Myoporum laetum-a small evergreen tree with edible fruit, sometimes called the mousehole tree. Its leaves are used to repel mosquitoes and sandflies. As a verb, it means "be expert," "clever," or "professional." Late 19th C. Bearers: Dame Ngaio Marsh (1895-1982), the New Zealand crime writer and theatre director.

Ngaire ? New Zealand name. It may have derived from a village near the town of Stratford, which was called Ngaire until 1909, when the name was changed to Ngaere. Maori: ngaere "swamp"-a reference to the ancient wetland once covering the area. Anglicized as Nyree. Bearers: Nyree Dawn Porter (1936-2001), the New Zealand-born actress.

Ngoc y Vietnamese name-ngoc "jade."

Nguyen c~ Anglicized form of Nguon, a Vietnamese name meaning "source" and "spring."

Nguyet ? Anglicized form of the Vietnamese name Nguyet meaning "lunar."

Nia ? Nia Ben Aur is the Welsh version of the Irish Niamh Chinn Oir-"Niamh of the Golden Head." It was virtually unknown before 1916, when the Welsh poet "Thomas Gwynn Jones published his poem "Nia Ben Aur;" since then it has enjoyed a fair amount of popularity in Wales. Nia has also been used as a pet-form of names ending in -nia, such as ANTONIA, while in India and Indonesia Nia is a variant of Niya; San: niya "rule." In Swahili nia also means "aim," "purpose," and "intention." Var: Nya.

Niamh Y Niamh is one of the most famous characters of Irish mythology; the fairy princess who fell in love with the mortal bard Oisín, and took him back with her to the land of Tir na nOg-the "Land of Youth." After Oisín failed to return to Tir na nOg, Niamh went in search of him, only to discover he had died. Jr Ga: niamh "brilliance" and "brightness." 20th C. Var: Neave, Neve, Niav, NEVAEH. Bearers: Niamh Cusack (b. 1953), the Irish actress. A Witch called Dame Neve of Crowborough, Sussex, England, is the subject of folk-tales recorded in the early twentieth century, but in her case, Neve is the English surname-OE: nefa "nephew."

Niaz 2 Persian name-niaz "need."

Nicander a Greek: Nikandros-nike "victory" + aner "man." It was borne by a second-century BCE poet, grammarian, and physician who often wrote poetry about medicine. Sadly, little of his work survives, but one that does is about how to treat poisonings.

Nicanor c~ A name borne by numerous individuals in ancient times, especially Macedonians. Gr: nike "victory" + anoros "untimely," or perhaps a Macedonian variant of aner "man." A first-century saint accounts for its use in the Spanish-speaking world today.

Nicasio e Spanish name. Gr: Nikasios-Latinized as Nicasius-nike "victory." Borne by a number of early Church figures. Fr: Nicaise.

Nice ? a Latinized form of Greek Nike, Goddess of victory-Gr: nike "victory." 16th C. Later examples may be related to the French city of Nice. This was originally called Nicaea-Gr: nikaaios "belonging to Nike." Occasionally, in more recent years, some use of Nice may represent the use of the adjective "nice." "This traces back to L: nescius "ignorant" and "foolish"-the original meaning of "nice"; its usual modern meaning of "pleasant," "agreeable," and "attractive" dates only to the mid-eighteenth century. Var: Nise, Nyce, Neese.

Nicevenn Y Scottish Goddess, also known as Dame Habonde and equated with Abundia, Satia, Herodiana, Hecate, and Diana. It is usually derived from Ga: nic "daughter" + an "the" + NEAMHAN-i.e. "daughter of heaven." However, NEMAIN is a more likely source than neamhan, giving it the meaning "daughter of the frenzy." Nicevenn is particularly associated with Samhuinn. Var: Nicnevin, Nicneven, Nickneven.

Nichelle Y Blend of NICOLE and MICHELLE. Mid20th C. Bearers: Nichelle Nichols (b. 1932), the American actress (whose real name is Grace).

Nicholas c~ English form of Greek Nikolaos-nike "victory" + laos "people." It was little used in the pre-Christian period, but popular afterwards, largely due to the celebrity of St. Nicholas of Myra, the patron saint of children, best known by the Scandinavian form of his name-Santa Claus. There are a number of other saints of the name. 11th C. Var: Nicolaus (the Latin form), Nicol, Nichol, Nycolas (hist); Nicolas; Nickolas (mod). Dim: Colet, Colinet (hist); Col, COLIN; Nick, Nicky, Nico. Fin: Launo, Hun: Miklos, Pol: Mikolaj, Lith: Mikalojus, Sc Ga: Neacal, Niocal, It: Niccolb, NICOLA, Welsh: Niclas, Scots: Nicol, Nichol, Dut: Nicolaas, Nikolaas; Klaas (dim), Sp: Nicolao, Nicolas, Cat: Nicolau, Get, Dan: Nicolaus, Nikolaus; Claus, Klaus (dim), Cro, Serb: Nikola, Ru: Nikolai; Kolya (dim) Gr: Nikolaos; Nikos (dim), It Ga: Nioclas. Bearers: the scrivener and reputed alchemist Nicolas Flamel (c. 1330-1418); the astronomer Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543); Tsar Nicholas II of Russia (1868-1918). Nicholas Nickleby (1838-39) is a novel by Charles Dickens. "Old Nick" has been in use as a nickname of the Christian Devil since the

seventeenth century, though it possibly derives from Ger: nickel
"hobgoblin" rather than Nicholas itself

Nicodemus e Greek name-nike "victory" + demos "people." It occurs in the New Testament and there are a couple of early medieval saints of the name venerated in the Eastern and Western Churches. 16th C. It: Nicodemo, Ru: Nikodim.

Nicola Y Feminine form of NICHOLAS-although in Italy it is a male variant of Niccolò. Nicola is found in Medieval Latin documents, but women so named went through their daily lives called Nicholas-which survived until the nineteenth century as a girl's name in Scotland. Nicola's use in its own right dates only to that century.'The French Nicole has been used in the ESW since the twentieth century. Var: Nichola; Dim: Nick, Nicki, Nickie, Nicky, Nikki. Sp: Nicolasa, Fr: Nicolette (dim), It: Nicoletta. Bearers: Nicole Kidman (b. 1967), the Australian actress.'The Nicola people are a Canadian First Nation political and cultural alliance of Nicola County, British Columbia, who take their name from a native chief dubbed "Nicholas" by Metis fur traders.

Nicon G~ Greek name-nike + suffix -on. Nicon was a common name in Ancient Greece, and was Latinized as Nico. Among the bearers was one of the mythical Telchines (see Telchis). It is also borne by a saint, venerated largely in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Nidd e The name of an English river in Yorkshire. Its origins are almost certainly Celtic, and it is probably connected with NUDD-and thus NODENS.

Nieves Y Spanish name, taken from a title of the Virgin Mary: Nuestra Señora de las Nieves "Our Lady of the Snows" < Sp: nieve "snow."The title commemorates an occasion in the fourth century when it was said to have snowed in Rome in August-a "miracle" attributed to Mary. Late 19th C.

Nigel e A back-formation of NEIL from Latin Nigellus. 15th C. Sir Walter Scott's *The Fortunes of Nigel* (1822) promoted the name in the nineteenth century. Var: Nygell, Nigelle (hist). Dim: Nige. Bearers: Nigel Kennedy (b.

1956), the British violinist; Nigel Mansell (b. 1953), the British racing driver.

Nigella Y Latin name of a number of annual plants, in particular *Nigella sativa*-better known as love-in-a-mist. Its seeds are known as black cumin or onion seed, and are used in a number of Indian and Middle Eastern recipes. Late L: *nigellus* "blackish" < L: *niger* "black." In the twentieth century, it has been treated as a feminine form of NIGEL. Bearers: Nigella Lawson (b. 1960), a British journalist and celebrity chef.

Night c~ Y The night has long been regarded as the natural time for supernatural happenings, the time of Witches, the time of darkness, the opposite of day's light. As such it has immense allegorical and metaphorical meanings and associations. Unsurprisingly, it has particularly strong associations with the feminine-the concept of the Goddess of the Night or Queen of the Night is ancient, as is night's linguistic root, which can be traced right back to PIE: **nokwtand* has cognates across the Indo-European languages, such as CC: **noxtV-*, L: *NOX*, Gr: *NYX*, and San: *NAKTA* and *NISHA*. Most early use as a given name was related to the surname-a variant of KNIGHT. 18th C

Nightingale 2 c~ Nightingale is found as a female name as well as a male from at least the eighteenth century and possibly earlier, which suggests that as well as being an adoption of the surname (which arose as a nickname from the name of the bird), it may have also been in use from an early date with direct reference to the bird. From the 1850s, a number of girls were baptized Florence Nightingale, in honor of the English nurse and campaigner for improved nursing standards in military hospitals, who was so famous that for a time in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries "nightingale" became a generic term for a nurse in Britain. The original name of the bird was "nightgale," a combination of NIGHT and ME: *gale* "singing" and "merriment."

Nightshade c~ Y Nightshade is the country name given to a number of plants of the *Solanum* and *Atropa* families, noted for their poisonous or narcotic properties, such as deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*), woody nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*), and black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*). All three have been used in herbal medicine, particularly as pain relief-and

all three are poisons.'The name combines NIGHT and SHADE, usually understood to refer to the poisonous, narcotic properties of the berries, which invoke "the terror of the darkness of the night." First among them is deadly nightshade, a plant of Saturn and Water, which has numerous country names-among them sorcerer's berry and Witch's berry-highlighting the plant's long association with magic and the Craft. Late 20th C.

Nikhil cc Indian name. San: nikhila "entire," "whole," or "complete."

Nikifor e Russian form of Nikephoros. Gr: nike "victory" + phero "to bring" or "to bear"-i.e. "bringer of victory" or "bearer of victory." L: Nicephorus, Mod Gr: Nikiforos.

Nikita Y Russian form of Greek Aniketos-aniketos "unconquerable"-a male saint much venerated in the Orthodox Church. In the ESW, confusion over whether the name was masculine or feminine set in early; a girl was baptized Nina Nikita in England as early as 1887. Most use in the ESW has been since the 1960s, but it was Elton John's song "Nikita" (1985) that made it familiar and saw it bestowed widely on girls.

Nila Y Principally, an Indian name-San: nila "blue," "dark blue," and "indigo." In Hinduism, a number of Gods are depicted with blue skin, representing an advanced stage of deep meditation. Closely related is Nilima-San: ndiman "blueness" and "blackness." Nila also means "moon" in Tamil, and is the common name of Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea, a shrub found in mangrove forests. In Russia, Nila is the feminine of Nil (see Nilus). Late 19th C. Var: Neela, Nyla.

Nilahasi 2 Alabama: nilahasi "moon."

Nilam Y Indian name. Hindi: ndama "sapphire" < San: nda "blue." Var: Neelam.

Nile ' Y The name of the famous river of Egypt, which was so vital to the birth of Egyptian civilization. Gr: Neilos "Nile"-unknown meaning. 19th C. See also Nflus.

Niles cc Principally, the Scandinavian form of NEIL. Niles is also an English surname-which also derives from Neil. 17th C. Niles Crane was a principal character in the American sitcom Frasier (1993-2004).

Nilofer Y Persian name-nilufer "water-lily." Turk: Niliifer.

Nilus e The name of the God of the NILE, said in Greek mythology to be the son of the Titans Oceanus and Tethys. Also borne by three saints. It, Port, Sp: Nilo, Ru: Nil.

Nimue y Latin: nimbus "cloud."The word "nimbe" is used of any bright or luminous cloud or cloud-like formation surrounding a deity, person or thing-in particular it is used of the halo around the heads of saints. 20th C. Var: Nimbia.

Nimith cc' Khmer name-nimmit "transformation" and "to cause to appear by magic."

Nimet y Turkish name-nimet "blessing," "kindness," and "favor."

Nimrod c~ The name of a legendary Mesopotamian king and skillful hunter, who is associated with Babylon and other cities. He is mentioned in the Bible and features in a number of legends and folk-tales, including being credited with building the so-called Tower of Babel. It is likely, however, that he represents a Mesopotamian God, rather than a mortal man.The most likely candidate is Ninurta. Nimrod itself has the apparent meaning in Hebrew of "we will rebel" or "let us rebel." In Middle English, Nimrod appeared in texts as Nembrot, Nembroth, Nemroth, and Nemeroth.18th C.

Nimue Y Nimue is almost certainly one and the same as NINIANE, the Lady of the Lake. In some versions of the Arthurian Cycles, Nimue is made a distinct figure in her own right. More than once she has been made the seducer or love-interest of Merlin. In Marion Zimmer Bradley's Mists of Avalon (1982), the Lady of the Lake is the title of a priestess, and Nimue, Niniane, and Viviane are presented as separate characters. Nimue also features in the more recent British television drama Merlin (2008-). Late 20th C.

Nina Y Russian pet-form of ANNA and short form of names ending in -nina, such as ANTONINA. Adopted in the ESW in the nineteenth century. Its use in more recent times may have been influenced by Sp: nina "little girl." Nina (var: Nina) is also the name of a Sumerian Goddess identified with Inanna and Ishtar. Sumerian: nin "lady" + a "water." The city of Nineveh (also found as a name since the nineteenth century) is probably named after her-Ishtar is particularly associated with Nineveh. In Quechua and Aymara, nina means "fire." Var: Nena. Dim: NINETTA. Bearers: Nina Bawden (b. 1925), the British writer, whose works include *The Witch's Daughter* (1966).

Ninel Y Russian name, coined by spelling LENIN backwards (see Lena). Bearers: Ninel Kulagina (1926-90)-also known as Nina and Nelya-was a Russian woman famous for her exceptional psychic powers, especially her psychokinesis. 20th C.

Ninetta Y Generally treated as a diminutive of NINA, Ninetta appeared rather earlier; a character of the name feature's in Mozart's opera *La Finta Semplice* (1769). It also occurs in Prokofiev's opera *The Love for Three Oranges* (1919). Var: Ninette.

Ning y Chinese name. Mand: ning "peaceful."

Ninhursag Y Sumerian fertility and Earth Goddess. Sumerian: nin "lady" + hur.sag "mountain" (literally "foothill"). Some of her other names include Ninmah "exalted lady," Nintu "lady of birth," and she is identified with Beletili.

Ninian A fifth-century Celtic saint, believed to have been a missionary to the Picts-although there is no firm evidence that such a man existed, and he may well be a God turned into a saint by hagiographers.'The earliest reference to him was by Bede in the eighth century. His principal shrine is at Whithorn in Dumfries and Galloway, an area rich in prehistoric sacred sites. If he is a God, a likely candidate is the God whose memory lives on in the Mabinogion-Nyniaw-the son of Beli Mawr. In another source, he is said to be an ancestor of Brychan Brycheiniog. Probably CC: *nino-"ash."The Irish Ninnidh (unsurprisingly the name of another "saint") derives from this source. 14th C. Var: Ninias, Ninyas. Sc Ga: Ninean.

Bearers: Ninian Chirneyside (fl. 1591), a servant of the Earl of Bothwell, was denounced as a rebel in 1591 for failing to appear at a hearing before King James VI of Scotland (later James I of England), on charges of treason and Witchcraft. Fem: Niniana.

Niniane Y The name of the Lady of the Lake in Arthurian Romances. She is also known as Viviane, Vivien, and Nimue. The origin is usually said to be unknown, but it seems likely to be connected either with NINIAN-in meaning if not at a deeper level-or NEFYNN. 20th C. Bearers: Niniane is the name of both Merlin's mother and apprentice in Mary Stewart's The Crystal Cave series (1970-95).

Ninkasi 2 Sumerian Goddess of beer and brewing beer. She is one of eight children born to Enki to heal wounds he had received. Sumerian: nin "lady" + ka "mouth" + si "to fill up" i.e. "the lady who fills the mouth up (presumably with beer).

Ninlil ? Sumerian: nin "lady" and lil "wind," "breath," and "spirit." Ninlil is the female counterpart-and consort-of Enlil. She is the mother of Nanna, God of the moon.

Ninon Y A French pet-form of ANN, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. The word "ninon" is the name of a type of light weight, closely woven fabric, originally made of silk, but now often synthetic, which first appeared in the early twentieth century. The origin is unknown, though it may derive from the girl's name.

Ninsuna Y Sumerian Goddess-the mother of Gilgamesh. Sumerian: nin "lady"+ sun "wild cow." Var: Ninsun.

Ninurta c~ Major Sumerian God, the meaning of whose name is not entirely clear. The first element is straightforward enough-Sumerian: nin "lady" and "lord." The second may be ur "land" or urn "plough." He is a God of fertility, war, rain, and thunderstorms.

Ninus c~ According to Greek writers, Ninus was the founder of the city of Nineveh. Actually, they weren't too far from the mark, as the city was named after the Goddess NINA.

Niobe 2 In Greek mythology, Niobe was a daughter of Tantalus, and wife of King Pelops of Sparta. She had seven sons and seven daughters and one day decided to boast that this meant she was greater than the Goddess Leto, who had birthed only two children, Apollo and Artemis. Of course, Leto was not terribly happy about this, and reacted in a manner typical of Greek Gods, sending her children to even out the numbers. In some versions, Niobe lost all of her children to the arrows of Artemis and Apollo-in others one or two were spared.'The meaning is unknown. 17th C. Bearers: Niobe, a character in The Matrix film trilogy (1999-2003).

Nion c? Y The Ogham name for the ash. 01: nin "ashtree." It is the third month of the Tree Calendar, February 18 to March 17.

Niran c Mai name-niran < nirandon "forever," "eternal," unceasing."

Nirvana ? e Nirvana is a central concept of Buddhism and Jainism referring to that state of being free from suffering. San: nirvana "blown out," "extinguished," and "extinction." 20th C.

Nisaba Y Sumerian and Akkadian Goddess. Her principal sphere is writing, but she is also a Goddess of crops. Other associations appear to be with astrology, dreams, and oracles. She is depicted wearing a horned crown with ears of corn and a crescent moon. In an Old Babylonian hymn, she is addressed as "lady colored like the stars of heaven."The etymology is very uncertain, but the most plausible is Sumerian: nissa "greens" and "vegetables" (< fig "valuables" + sig "green' and "yellow') + ba "to give." Var: Nidaba, Nissaba.

Nisha y Indian name. San: nisa "night." Var: Niza.

Nishant cc Indian name. San: nisanta "night's end"-and thus "daybreak."

Nishatsi c5' Y Hausa: nishatsi "joy of living" and "joy of being alive." Var: Nishatsa.

Nisien c? The name of a half-brother of Bran the Blessed. He is a loyal supporter of Bran, reliable and trustworthy-in stark contrast to his twin brother Efnisien. The etymology is not entirely clear; the -ien ending occurs

in other Welsh names and often stands for CC: *genos- "born." "The first element of Efnisien is almost certainly W: efnys "enemy"-so it seems plausible that the first element of Nisien is intended to carry the meaning "friend"- "born a friend" as opposed to Efnisien, "born an enemy."

Nisroch c~ A God said to be worshipped by the Assyrians in the Bible. Prior to the decipherment of cuneiform, the name was derived from Ar: nisir "eagle," but this is unlikely; it almost certainly represents the mangling of the name of an actual Assyrian or Babylonian deity-the most likely candidate being NUSKU. In later Judeo-Christian texts, Nisroch was called a fallen angel. Apparently, he now works in "hell" as a chef

Nisus cc In Virgil's Aeneid, Nisus is one of the companions of Aeneas. The tragic story of his friendship with Euryalus, which leads to both their deaths, is told in the epic poem. Gr: neomai "to go away."

Nita y Originally a pet-form of Spanish Juanita (see Jane). It also means "bear" in some Muskogean languages such as Alabama and Chickasaw. 19th C. Bearers: Juanita "Nita" Callahan, one of the main characters in Diane Duane's Young Wizards series (1983-90).

Nivetta 2 A daughter of Morgana le Fay in Bernardo Tasso's sixteenth-century L'Amadigi. He probably coined the name from either NIMUE or NEFYN, giving it the appearance of deriving from It: neve "snow."

Niyaka Y a' Mende: niyaka "moon."

Njema 2 cc' Swahili: njema "good" and "admirable"-often in a moral sense. As an exclamation, it means both "good!" and "certainly!"

Njere ' Y Shona: njere "cleverness" and "mental agility"referring to the ability to learn quickly.

Njord e Modern form of Njorr-the Norse God of the sea and seafaring, fishing, fertility, and the wind. He is also the father of Freyr and Freyja. His name is probably cognate with NERTHUS, and there is speculation that the two deities were once dual or even hermaphrodite, perhaps explaining why

the mother of his children is an "unnamed sister." Still used in Scandinavia.
Var: Njorthr, Niord.

Njorun 2 Norse Goddess of dreams, whose name is perhaps cognate with NJORD and NERTHUS. It is possible it contains the second element runar "secret," "hidden lore," and "wisdom" or runa "friend." Var: Niorun.

Nnamdi c~ Nigerian name. Igbo: nna "father" + -m- "my" + di "live."
Bearers: (Benjamin) Nnamdi Azikiwe (1904-98), the first President of Nigeria.

Noah c~ Biblical name. Heb: noach "rest" and "calm." 16th C. Recent use may have been influenced by bearers such as the former child actor Noah Hathaway (b. 1971), and another child actor, Noah Gray-Cabey (b. 1995). Noah Bennett is a character in the American television drama Heroes (2006-10). Port: Noa, Rom: Noe, Fr, Sp: Noe, It: Noe.

Noam cc Modern Hebrew name-noam "pleasantness"; essentially the male form of NAOMI. Bearers: (Avram) Noam Chomsky (b. 1928), the American linguist, anarchist, and libertarian socialist.

Noble c~ English surname. MF: noble "well-known." 18th C. General use since the twentieth century is likely to be related more to the English "noble" "distinguished"-particularly by birth (i.e. aristocratic) or behavior.

Noctiluca Y In John of Salisbury's twelfth-century Policraticus, Noctiluca is an alternative name given for the Goddess Herodias. L: noctiluca "something that shines by night" < nox "night" + luceo "to shine"-thus also "moon" and "lantern."

Nodens 5 Celtic God, associated with healing, the sea, hunting, and dogs-specifically hunting dogs. A temple complex dedicated to him has been excavated at Lydney Park in Gloucestershire, England. He is one and the same with NUADA, NUDD, and LLUDD. The Romans identified him with Mars, Mercury, Neptune, and Silvanus. CC: *noudent- "to acquire" and "to have the use of." Var: Nudens, Nodons.

Noel e 2 Anglo-Norman: noel "Christmas" < L: natalis "relating to a birth." Most take this as referring to the birth of Christ, but it could equally be applied to the rebirth of the sun at the Winter Solstice. Bestowed upon children born at Christmas since the Middle Ages. Examples from the sixteenth century onwards may sometimes reflect the adoption of the surnames derived from it. Var: Nowell. Fr: Noel. Bearers: Noel Coward (1899-1973), the English composer and playwright; Noel Gallagher (b. 1967), member of the rock band Oasis.

Noelani Y Hawaiian name-noe "mist" and "misty" + lani "heaven" and "sky."

Noelle Y Feminine of NOEL. 20th C. Var: Noella, Noele, Noely, Noeleen, Noelene, Noleen, Nolene. Fr: Noelle.

Nola 2 The origins of Nola are unclear. In recent years, it has been treated as a short form of FENELLA or variant of NUALA, but its use predates-and overshadows-the use of either outside Ireland. In the nineteenth century, if you had said "Nola" to an individual of any education, they would have said it was the name of an Italian town famous for three battles between the Romans and the forces of Hannibal in 215 and 214 BCE. The names of a number of Italian cities were taken up as girls' names in the nineteenth century the most famous being Florence, although this still doesn't adequately explain the extent of Nola's use. It may be that the name arose as a fanciful creation for which America is quite famous, perhaps a combination of NORA and LOLA, at a time when names such as Nellie, Lula, Lulu, Nora, Lola, Viola, and Leola were all commoner than Nola. Plausibly it may have first arisen as a pet-form of OLIVIA or OLIVE; inspired by the fact that Noll is a traditional short form of Oliver. 19th C.

Nolan c~ Anglicized form of Irish surname O Nuallain "descendant of Nuallan." 01: niiall "howling" and "cry" + dim. suffix -an-probably originally a byname rather than a given name. 19th C.

Nolka Y c~ Abenaki: nolka "deer."

Nolwenn 2 Breton name. It is often translated as "holy one from Noyal"-with the wenn being interpreted as "holy (one)," cognate with Welsh gwyn.

Actually, however, it is clear that the town of Noyal-Pontivy got its name from the alleged fifth-century Saint Noyale. Noyale is the French form of Old Breton Noaluen; the name is found in Cornish as Newlyn and Niwlin-Latinized as Newlina. The Old Breton in particular hints strongly that the gwenn was integral. What the first element is, however, is unclear. It may be CC: *now-slo- "cry" or "shout," from which 01: mall, developed (see Nolan). Nor is it beyond the realms of possibility that it shares the same origin as NUALA. As with a number of the Celtic saints, Noaluen was said to have sailed across the sea-in this instance from Cornwall to Brittany-on a leaf. Intriguingly, there is considerable evidence that a prehistoric henge existed at St. Newlyn in Cornwall. 20th C.

Nomeda Y Lithuanian name-nuo "from" + medis "tree" and "wood." Masc: Nomedas.

Nomius ' An epithet of Apollo, Hermes, and Pan. Gr: nomos "pasture" and "law."

Non 2 Welsh name; traditionally ascribed to the mother of St. David. L: nonna "nun," which arose as a child's word for a wet-nurse or foster-parent, and become a term of reverence for the elderly. In Italy, non no and nonna are still the words for grandfather and grandmother. The saint is known in English as St. Nun, and there is a well dedicated to her under this name at Pelynt in Cornwall. Used in Wales since the nineteenth century. Var: Nonna.

Nonus G~ Latin: nonus "ninth." The number nine has been considered a sacred number since ancient times, not least because the average gestation of a human baby is nine months. Representing change, growth, and inspiration, it is associated with fire and the astrological signs of Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius. 17th C. Fem: Nona.

Noor Y c~ Arabic unisex name-nur "light." Var: Nur, Nour, Nor. Fem: Nura, Noora, NORA. Persian: Nouri.

Nora 2 Short form of HONORA, in the past used particularly in Ireland. 19th C. Var: Norah. Dim: Nonie; Noreen < Jr Ga: Noirin (dim.). Nora is also found as a variant of NOOR. The word nora also means "earth" and

"burrow" in Czech, sharing similar meanings in other Slavic languages, such as "lair" in Slovak," and "den" or "hovel" in Polish. In Latvian, it means "glade," while in the Romance languages of Portuguese and Romanian it means "daughter-in-law." Bearers: Norah Jones (b. 1979), the American singer-songwriter.

Norbert a' Old German: nord "north" + berht. It was borne by an eleventh-/twelfth-century German saint, and was carried to America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by settlers from Continental Europe. It is now regarded as a bit of a comic name-Norbert is the name Hagrid bestows on his pet dragon in the Harry Potter series.

Noriko Y Japanese name with different meanings depending on the kanji used, including "child of principle," "child of history," and "child of ceremony."

Norio cc Japanese name-"man of principle" or "man of history."

Norma Y Norma's origins aren't concrete; it may have been coined as a feminine form of NORMAN, or be an adoption of L: norma "carpenter's square," "rule," and "standard." The small southern constellation Norma received the name in the mid-eighteenth century, but the name was barely known before Bellini's opera Norma (1831), in which Norma is a Druid priestess. Henrik Ibsen's play Norma, or A Politician's Love (1851) also promoted it. 19th C. Bearers: Norma Jean Mortenson (1926-62), the birth name of Marilyn Monroe.

Norman (' Old English: northman. Norman was found as a given name before the Norman Conquest and continued in use after it too, giving rise to a couple of surnames. Although it fell out of general use in England during the Middle Ages, it remained in use in Scotland. Charlotte Mary Yonge used it for the name of a character in *The Daisy Chain* (1856), which reintroduced it to the rest of the ESW. Dim: Norm, Norrie. Bearers: Norman Wisdom (1915-2010), the British comedian, singer and actor; Norman Bates, the central character of Robert Bloch's novel *Psycho* (1959).

Normandy c~ ? The name of the historic French region, which was once an independent dukedom. It acquired its name in the ninth century when it was

settled by "the Northmen"-i.e. the Vikings. 19th C. Var: Normandie.

Normina 2 A Scottish feminine form of NORMAN. 19th C. Var: Normana, Normanina.

Norn Y The Norns are the Norse equivalents of the Greek Fates. They bore the names Urdr, Ver0andi, and Skuld. Dispensers of destiny, they dwelt at the foot of the Yggdrasil. The word may derive from the same source as the obsolete English "nurn" ("to utter" and "to say"), which is thought to derive from the Norse and be cognate with Swedish norna and nyrna-"to warn secretly with words and gestures."

Norris a' English surname. OF: noreis "northerner." 16th C.

North c~ Y North is particularly associated with the Goddess, with Earth, winter, and death-but also, as a result, of rebirth. Many Witches place their altars facing north. The surname North means precisely that-"north"-and was bestowed originally upon someone who came from the north. 17th C.

Nortia 2 Etruscan Goddess of fate. During the New Year, nails were hammered into the walls of her temples to mark the old year's passing and the fact that its fate was now fixed. The etymology is unknown. Var: Nyrtia, Nursia.

Norton c' English surname, taken from a number of places of the name. OE: north + tun. 16th C.

Nostradamus c~ Latinized form of Nostredame-the surname of Michel de Nostredame (1503-66)-by which the famous seer is usually known today. Nostradamus's work published as Les Propheties (1555)-is still influential. Fr: Nostredame "our lady." 20th C. Fem: Nostradama.

Notger a' German name. OG: not "need" + ger "spear."

Notus cc Greek: notos "south wind" and "south." "The God of the south wind."

Nouredine ' Westernized form of Nuruddin. Ar: nur ud-din < nur "light" + al "the" + din "faith," "religion," and "belief." It is found particularly in Algeria and Morocco, and among the Islamic populations of France and Holland.

November Y e The name of the eleventh month in the Gregorian calendar, though it actually means "ninth month" in Latin-reflecting the month's original position in the calendar. It falls between Samhain and the Winter Solstice, a period of drawing within and reflection, when Nature is at its rawest and barest. Late 19th C.

Nox y cc Latin: nox "night." Nox is the Roman equivalent of the Greek NYX. 19th C-largely as a variant of KNOX.

Noyolo e Y Xhosa: noyolo "blessed."

Nuada e Nuada Airgetlam-"Silver Hand"-is an Irish God, cognate with the Celtic NODENS and Welsh NUDD and LLUDD. In Irish mythology he is presented as a king of the Tuatha De Danann, who lost his hand fighting the Fir Bolg. Var: Nuadha, Nuadu.

Nuala Y Irish name, which probably arose as a short form of FIONNUALA.'The name occurs in myth as the wife of Finbheara, king of the fairies of Connaught, thus making her one and the same with Una. Early 20th C.

Nudd cc A name which features in Welsh mythology as the father of Gwynn ap Nudd. He is one and the same as LLUDD Llaw Eirint, NUADA, and NODENS. As a given name, it first appears in middle-name use in the nineteenth century, indicative of a surname being bestowed. Most examples occur in Norfolk, home to the Norfolk surname Nudd, a variant of Hudd, derived from HUGH.

Numa c? Roman praenomen. It was borne by one of the legendary kings of Rome, Numa Pompilius.'The etymology is by no means certain, but it may be related to L: numen "nodding" and thus "command" and "consent"-specifically "divine will." Eventually, this led to it acquiring the meaning of

"deity" and "divinity" too. During the Imperial period, numen was used to mean the "Godhead" or divine power of the living emperor. 18th C.

Numenius c' Latin form of Greek Noumenios. Gr: noumenios "the new moon"-and the first day of the month of the Ancient Greek calendar. Numenius is now the scientific name for the curlew. Fem: Numenia. Bearers: Numenius of Apamea, a second-century CE philosopher, a NeoPythagorean, and thus a forerunner of the Neo-Platonists.

Nundina Y Latin: nundinus "of nine days." Nundina is a Roman Goddess who presided over the purification and naming of newborn babies which took place nine days after birth for boys-and eight for girls.

Nunzia Y Italian name, which arose as a short form of Annunziata-"annunciation."The name refers to the Christian myth about the angel Gabriel visiting the Virgin Mary to "announce" she was pregnant. Sp: Anunciacion.

Nuo Y Chinese name. Mand: nuo "graceful" and "elegant."

Nuray Y Turkish name-nur "light," "radiance," "divine radiance" + ay "moon."

Nuria Y The principal use of Nuria is Spanish and of relatively recent date, taken from the Valley of Nuria and adopted as a girl's name because of a title of the Virgin Mary-Nuestra Senora de Nuria.'This refers specifically to a statue of the Virgin Mary at a sanctuary in the valley. It is said to date to the eighth century, but is actually twelfth or thirteenth.'This statue has even had its own feast day-September 8-since 1965. It is regarded by local shepherds as a patron "saint" of fertility. Nuria is also sometimes used as a variant of NOOR.

Nusku c~ Babylonian and Assyrian God of light and fire, described in Assyrian texts as "the holder of the golden scepter" and "the lofty God."The etymology is very murky. Var: Nesku.

Nutmeg Y The name of the spice, long prized as a flavoring in cooking. ME: nut "nut" + muge "musk." Its botanical name is Myristica, and it is

ruled by Jupiter and Fire. Magically, nutmegs have long been valued for their protective qualities, having been used for centuries as good-luck talismans.'They are believed to ease rheumatism and ward off cold sores, among other things.'They are also held to bring prosperity. Late 20th C.

Nnwa Y Chinese Goddess who created humankind and sees to the upkeep of the wall of heaven. She is depicted as a snake or dragon with a woman's head.

Nuying Y Chinese name. Mand: nu "female" + and yfng "luster of gems" or "flower." In Chinese mythology, it is the name of one of the twin daughters of the mythical ruler and sage Yao.

Nwyfre a' Welsh: nwyfre "firmament" and "sky," and therefore "ether." Nwyfre is a word used in modern Druidry for the magical essence that governs life and the material universe, and thus the thread that links the human world to the Divine. It is symbolized by a snake, a symbol long used to represent the presence of the Divine on the Earth.'The word is connected with W: nwyf "energy" and "vigor." In one of the Welsh Triads, a character called Nwyfre is named as the father of Lliaws, who fathers two children with Arianrhod.

Nyana Y Shona: nyana "bird"-specifically "baby bird"; it is related to Xhosa: unyana "son."

Nyctelius a' An epithet of Dionysus. Gr: nuktelios "nightly." He was so called because his Mysteries were celebrated at night.

Nyima Y ' Tibetan name-nyi ma "sun."

Nympha Y Latin: nympha "bride" and "nymph" < Gr: numphe.19th C. Var: Nymphe.

Nymphadora Y The feminine form of Nymphadorus- a genuine Ancient Greek male name. A shorter form of it-Nymphas-occurs in the New Testament. Gr: numphe "nymph" + didomi "to give"-i.e. "given by a nymph/the nymphs." Bearers: Nymphadora Tonks, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Nyonda Y Swahili: nyonda "lover," "sweetheart," and "beloved."

Nyota 2 Swahili: nyota "star." Nyota Uhuru was a character in the original Star Trek science-fiction series (1966-69).

Nysa Y The name of a legendary mountain in Greek mythology, where dwelt the Nysiades-the nymphs who raised the infant Dionysus. His name is traditionally derived from the mountain. It is likely, however, that it was never a real place; it was probably invented by the Greeks in an attempt to explain Dionysus's name. 20th C.

Nyx 2 cc Greek: nux "night"-the Goddess of night. In early Greek myths, she is the daughter of Chaos and mother of Hemera "day," as well as Ithanatos "death," Hypnos "sleep," Eris "strife," Nemesis, and Charon-the ferryman of the dead. In some myths, she is presented as the very first Goddess of all, from whom all the others emanated, and she played an important part in the Mystery religion of Orphism. 20th C.

Nzoia Y The name of a river in Kenya.

Nzuri Y cc Swahili: nzuri "good."

Oak c~ Y The oak is one of the most sacred of all the trees; standing for strength and kingship. Oak leaves are symbolic of bravery, and the tree has long been associated with the Divine. In Greece at the sanctuary of Dodona, the priests of Zeus interpreted the rustling of the leaves in a grove of oaks. Meanwhile, the word "druid" very likely derives from PIE: *deru-, the same root which gave rise to CC: Baru- "oak." This developed into Bair in Irish and derw in Welsh-as well as its Ogham name of Duir. Certainly, the close association between the Druids and sacred oak groves is well attested. The battle between the Oak and the Holly Kings takes place twice a year at the Solstices; the Oak is always victorious at the Winter Solstice and rules over the half of the year when days are lengthening.'The English "oak" derives from OE: ac and sec, with cognates across the Germanic languages. The surname is from the same source, used of someone who lived by an oak, while Oakley combines it with leah, indicative perhaps of a place where once a sacred oak grove was found. 19th C.

Oar cc Y Oars have long been symbols of power, skill, and knowledge, particularly in relation to the sea. OE: ar "oar"almost certainly from the Old Norse. 20th C.

Obi c~ Obi is most familiar today as the name of the Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi in the American film Star Wars (1977), returning in the later prequels. It was recorded in the nineteenth century, however, as a Romani boy's name. Obi is also the name of a type of Witchcraft practiced in the West Indies.

Obra 2 c~ Twi: obra "the coming into this world" or "the state of existence of this world." It is sometimes linked with notions of fate and understanding what life's purpose is.

Obsidian e Y The name of a hard, black volcanic glass, which was used in ancient times as an alternative to flint for arrow-heads, and today is used for scalpels. L: obsianus "obsidian," said by Pliny the Elder to have been named after the man who discovered it, a certain, shadowy, Obsius. Obsidian is often used to make scrying mirrors as it possesses exceptional qualities of revealing truth John Dee famously possessed one, which is now

in the British Museum.'The stone is also valued for its powerful protective qualities.'The "Obsidian Order" was a Cardassian secret intelligence organization in the American science-fiction series Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1993-99). Late 20th C.

Ocean c~ 2 Latin: OCEANUS. In use since the late eighteenth century. In the past, it was chosen often-if not mostly-for those born at sea. Var: Oshun, Oshyn (mod).

Oceana Y A coined feminine form of OCEANUS. Used since the early nineteenth century, largely for girls born at sea. Oceana (1903) was an opera by the Italian composer Antonio Smareglia.

Oceane y French: oceane"ocean."20th C.

Oceanus cc Latin form of Greek Okeanos-the name of a Titan and father of the Oceanids-nymphs of the ocean. Where his name comes from is unknown. Oceanus is the principal character depicted in the Trevi fountain in Rome. 17th C.

Ocelus c~ The name of a Celtic God known from three inscriptions found in Britain, two of which were found in Caerwent. 'The Romans equated him with the God Mars. His name may derive from CC: okita- "harrow," which might make him a God of agriculture. He may be connected with the God Ocaere, known from an inscription found in Portugal.

Ochre e 2 Greek: okhra "yellow ochre" < okhros "pale yellow." Ochre is the name given to a pigment extracted from certain clays to make a pale yellow-brown paint. 20th C.

Octavia Y The feminine form of OCTAVIUS.'The name was borne by two sisters of the Emperor Augustus and a daughter of the Emperor Claudius. 17th C.

Octavian c~ Deriving from OCTAVIUS, this is the name by which the Emperor Augustus was known after the death of Julius Caesar, until he took the name Augustus in 27 BCE. 16th C. Dim: Tavi, TAVY.

Octavius c~ The name of a Roman gens. L: octavus "eighth"-this was probably used as a praenomen in the early Roman period, with the gens developing from it. In numerology, the number eight is associated with infinity; its two circles are often considered to represent the joining of Heaven and Earth. Bearers: Gaius Octavius (63 BCE-14 CE), the Emperor Augustus. 16th C.

Oda Y Mainly a variant of Uda-the medieval form of UTE-oda is also a Late Latin form of the word "ode" (see Ode). Late 19th C. Bearers: Oda Mae Brown, a psychic in the film Ghost (1990).

Ode ' Y Ode appears in medieval times as a variant of ODO, and there is a rare surname which derives from the same source, which may account for examples of Ode as a given name from the nineteenth century.'The English word "ode" meaning a poem, originally intended to be sung, or in a meter once used for singing (such as the Odes of Horace), comes directly from L: ode < Gr: aoide < aeido "to sing."

Odette y A feminine form of ODO used in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake for the princess transformed into a swan. 19th C.

Odile Y Diminutive feminine of ODO. There are two saints of the name-both patronesses of good eyesight.'The fourth-century St. Odilia of Cologne was reputed to have been the daughter of a king of Britain and one of the virgins who accompanied St. Ursula, while the late seventh-/ early eighth-century St. Odile of Alsace was allegedly a blind daughter of the Duke of Alsace, whose sight was miraculously restored by St. Erhard of Regensburg. 19th C. Var: Otilie, Odilia, Otilia, OTTOLINE.

Odin The name of the chief God of the Nordic Pantheon. His name in Old Norse was Oðinn, cognate with the Anglo-Saxon Woden and Old High German Wotan. The reconstructed Proto-Germanic form is *Wōdanaz or *Wōdinaz < Proto-Germanic: *wo~uz "poetic fury"-very appropriate for a God identified with poets and seers. The word is cognate with CC: *wftu- "poetic inspiration" and *wfti- "sooth-sayer" and "prophet." Odin was almost certainly identified by the Romans with Mercury, probably because both were regarded as deities who led the souls of the dead to the afterlife.

He also shares many similarities with the Celtic Lugus-also identified with Mercury by the Romans. 19th C.

Odo e Old German: nod "wealth" and "riches." Introduced into Britain by the Normans, it was the source of surnames such as Oddie and Oates. In Medieval Europe, numerous kings and nobles bore the name. The Romani names Othi and Oti are probably derived from it. Revived 19th C. Bearers: Odo, a "shape-shifting" character in the American television science-fiction series Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1993-99). Ger: Otto.

Odr c~ Anglicized form of Oar, the name of a Norse God-the consort of Freya. ON: oor "mind," "feeling," "poetry," "song," and "inspiration"; the identical adjective means "eager," "vehement," and "mad." His name ultimately derives from the same root as ODIN-and it is thought he and Odin may once have been one and the same. Var: Od.

Odysseus c The name of a mythical king of Ithaca, known for his cunning and resourcefulness, who participated in the Trojan War. He appears in the Iliad and is the main protagonist of the Odyssey, both works ascribed to the legendary epic poet Homer in the eighth century BCE. Gr: odussomai "to be angry with" or "to hate." Late 19th C.

Oenone 2 The name of a mountain nymph from Mount Ida who was the first wife of Paris of Troy, before he abandoned her for Helen. Gr: oinos "wine" + the suffix -one signifying "of" or "belonging to." The name featured in Thomas Heywood's Oenone and Paris (1594) and in poems by George Peele-also sixteenth century-Robert Herrick (1650) and Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1829). 19th C. Var: (Enone.

Oenus c' A legendary king of Britain, recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth. Probably a form of ANGUS.

Ogden English surname, from Ogden in Lancashire. OE: ac "oal" + denu "valley." 17th C. Bearers: Ogden Nash (1902-71), the American poet and humorist.

Oger c~ Old French form of Old German Audagar-uod "riches" + ger "spear." It was introduced into Britain by the Normans. Var: Ogier. Bearers:

Ogier the Dane, one of the paladins (foremost warriors) of Charlemagne, who features in a number of medieval romances.

Oghma a Oghma was an Irish deity-one of the Tuatha De Danann-who was credited with the invention of the Ogham. He is quite possibly the same as the Gaulish God Ogmios who, according to the Roman satirist Lucian, was equated with Hercules by the Gauls and revered for his eloquence.

Archaeological evidence suggests he was also linked with Hermes. The etymology is unknown. Coincidentally, however, ogma means "ash wood" in Abenaki. 20th C. Var: Ogma.

Ogwen 2 cc A river and lake in North Wales. Probaby W: og "a harrow" + gwyn-describing the way in which the river dramatically cuts through Snowdonia. 19th C.

Oighrig ? Ancient Scots Gaelic name, the meaning of which is not known for certain. It is generally believed to have developed from Old Irish Aithbhreac-"speckled one." In medieval times it was often Anglicized as AFRICA. Revived 20th C.

Oilill e An ancient Irish name. Oilill Olum (also known as Ailill Ollamh) was a mythological king of Ireland. It is sometimes said to mean "elf" or "sprite" in Irish Gaelic, but this is only true insofar as its likely derivation is from oilearly Irish ail-meaning "vexation" or "offence"-qualities associated with elves and sprites in Christian Ireland. Dim: Oilleog.

Oisín G~ Often written without the acute accent, Oisín is the name of the son of Finn McCool by Sadhbh. 01: as "deer" + dim. suffix -in-i.e. "little deer." Anglicized as OSSIAN. Oisín grew up to be regarded as Ireland's greatest poet as well as a warrior with the Fianna. Falling in love with the fairy-woman Niamh, he went with her to Tir na nOg. Early 20th C. Var: Osan, Ossan, Osheen. W. Osian.

Okara ? c~ Twi: okra/okara "soul" or "life -soul." Me word carries with it notions of predestined fate-a life errand. Realization of this errand is called Obra. In traditional belief, the Okara before birth is distinct from the soul-a kind of inner-soul, called Kara.

Ola Y cc Nigerian name. Yoruba: ola "wealth." It features in a great many names, both as a first and second element, such as the girl's name Olayinka (dim: Yinka)- "surrounded by wealth."

Olaf c3' The modern form of Old Norse Oleifr and Anleifr-ano "ancestor" + leifr "relics." It was a very popular name among the Vikings, borne by six kings of Norway. Sc Ga: Amhladh-Anglicized as AULAY; It Ga: Amhlaoibh-Anglicized as Auliffe.

Olea y Latin: olea "olive tree" and "olive." 20th C.

Oleander Y c3' The oleander is an attractive ornamental evergreen shrub, often encountered in Mediterranean lands. It is also one of the most poisonous, which is probably why in the language of flowers it represents caution and gives the message, "beware." OF: oleandre < Late L: lorandrum < Gr: rhododendron-rhoda "rose" + dendron "tree." The Greek became altered through association with LAUREA and the Latin through association with OLEA. 20th C.

Oleg cc A Russian male form of OLGA, deriving from the Scandinavian Helge. Late 19th C.

Olerki Y c Basque: olerki "poem" and "verse."

Olga ? The Russian form of HELGA. The name of a tenth-century Russian saint, as well as a number of Grand Duchesses, including the oldest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II. 19th C. Bearers: Olga Latina is a prominent character in Pushkin's Eugene Onegin (1825-33), which became wellknown outside Russia through Tchaikovsky's 1879 opera of the same name.

Olive 2 The olive has been cultivated for thousands of years for its fruit and the oil produced from it, which has been used for cooking, lighting, and the cleansing of the skin since ancient times. According to Greek mythology, the olive was the gift of Athene to Athens, sprouting from her staff which she plunged into the Earth on the Acropolis. The olive was also associated with Olympia, where the victors' crowns in its famous games were woven of olive leaves. Brides in Greece wore a chaplet of olive leaves-as such it was a symbol of both chastity and fertility. It has also long been a symbol

of peace. It is ruled by the Sun and Fire. L: oliva "olive," "olive tree," and "olive branch." Oliva was the name of an early and obscure Roman saint, and was adopted as a girl's name in the Middle Ages. This became Oliff and Olive in the vernacular. It was re-embraced enthusiastically in the late nineteenth century, along with the names of other flowers and shrubs. Bearers: Olive Shreiner (1855-1920), the South African feminist, pacifist, and writer, best known for *The Story of an African Farm* (1883). Olive (1850) was a novel by Dinah Craik.

Oliver c' Oliver is usually derived from OF: olivier < olivarius "an olive tree," but it is quite likely its real "roots" lie with OLAF. It was the name of one of the paladins (chief warriors) of Charlemagne, and was popular in medieval France and England. Dim: Ollie, Olly, Noll (hist). Fr: Olivier, It: Oliviero. Bearers: Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), Lord Protector of Britain during the Commonwealth; Oliver Goldsmith (1730-74), the Anglo-Irish playwright; Oliver Reed (1938-99), the British actor; Oliver Stone (b. 1945), the American film director; *Oliver Twist*, eponymous hero of Dickens's novel of 1838; Oliver Haddo, a character in W. Somerset Maugham's *The Magician* (1908)-the character was modeled on Aleister Crowley, and Crowley himself used it as a pseudonym in a piece accusing Maugham of plagiarism.

Olivia Y Olivia was first used by Shakespeare in *Twelfth Night*, being presumably coined from L: Oliva "an olive." It was also used by William Wycherley in his play *The Plain Dealer* (1676) and in Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1766). 18th C. Dim: Liv, Livy, Livvy, Ollie, Olly. Var: Alivia (mod). Bearers: Olivia de Havilland (b. 1916), the actress; Olivia Newton-John (b. 1948), the singer and actress.

Olivine 2 The name of an olive-green mineral. When of gem-quality, it is called peridot. The word "olivine" dates to the late eighteenth century L: oliva "an olive"-so-named for its color. Late 19th C.

Ollalie Y Chinook: ollalie "berries."

Olwen Y The name of the daughter of Ysbaddaden, chief of the giants. Ysbaddaden sets her suitor Culhwch a series of impossible tasks in order to win her hand. Inevitably, Culhwch completes them, with the aid of a party

of knights selected by his cousin King Arthur. The traditional etymology is W: of "track" + gwyn-believed to have arisen because white trefoils sprang up wherever she walked. However, its true origin probably lies with W: olwyn "circle." Given the large number of Welsh names ending in -wen, most of which derive from gwyn, it is easy to see how the confusion arose. Olwen's rather otherworldly origins lead many to believe that she is really a Pagan Goddess-an aspect of the Maiden and guardian of the sacral kingship, as embodied in her father. 19th C.

Olympia Y Olympia was first used in the thirteenth century as a variant of OLYMPIAS, and was resurrected in the sixteenth. Olympia in Greece-home to the original Olympic Games-was an extremely important sanctuary, dedicated to the Olympian Gods, and Zeus and Hera in particular. The Temple of Zeus housed a chryselephantine statue by the sculptor Pheidias of the God, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Its face became the face of Zeus across the ancient world, and many scholars believe it was taken over by Christian iconographers to become the face of Jesus. Olympia (1863) is a famous painting of a reclining nude by Edouard Manet. Fr: Olympe. Bearers: Olympia Dukakis (b. 1931), the American actress.

Olympias Y An epithet of the Muses and the Graces, Olympias was also used as a given name in ancient times, most famously by the mother of Alexander the Great. It means "of Olympus," and it was also used of the crown of olive leaves bestowed upon the victors of contests in the Olympic Games. Olympus refers specifically to the mountain in Northern Greece, believed to be the home of Zeus and the other eleven Olympian Gods-although there were nineteen mountains which possessed the name in Antiquity, and they have been added to since with a Mount Olympus in New Zealand and two in the United States. The origin of the name is unknown; it is probably pre-Greek, but given its wide usage is presumably related to some fairly common characteristic of mountains, such as "high" or "jagged" or even simply "mountain." St. Olympias was a late fourth-century saint venerated in the Middle Ages. 13th C.

Olympiodorus c? Greek: "gift of Olympus" or "gift of an Olympian." Bearers: Olympiodorus the Younger (c. 495- 570), a Neo-Platonist and

astrologer, and the last Pagan teacher of Neo-Platonic philosophy in Alexandria. Fem: Olympiodora.

Om e Y The mystical and sacred syllable used in Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Hinduism. The concept of Om-which is called onkar in Punjabi-is also a symbol of God in Sikh theology. 20th C.

Omar c~ The biblical and Arabic name Omar both derive from the same Semitic root meaning "flourishing" and "life." Used from the sixteenth century, though confused quite a bit with Homer. Var: Omer; Umar (Ar). The French Omer derives from Old German Audomar-uod "wealth" and "riches"+ mari "famous."

Omega Y c~ The last letter of the Greek alphabet. Wellknown among Christians through the saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last," attributed to Jesus.17th C.

Omen Y c~ A portentous sign-both good and bad. L: omen "that which foreshadows an event." 20th C. The Omen film trilogy (1976-81) has significantly colored the word.

Omnia 2 c~ Latin: omnia "all things." Late 20th C. Omnia (1999-) is a Dutch Neo-Celtic Pagan folk band.

Omolara Y Nigerian name. Yoruba: omo "child" + ara "family"-"a child is family." Dim: LARA. A similar nameused for boys and girls-is Omolayo (dim: Layo), in which omo is combined with ayo "joy" i.e. "a child is joy." Another is Omotayo (dim: Tayo)-"a child worthy of joy"

Oneega Y Susquehannock: oneega "water."

Onnen y Welsh: onnen "hazel tree." 20th C.

Onni e Finnish name-onni "happiness," "fortune," and "blessing."

Onwa Y Igbo: onwa "moon."

Onycha Y The name of an aromatic substance used in ancient incense, in particular a sacred incense mentioned in the Bible, which is sometimes

referred to by the Hebrew for incense-ketoret. Exactly what onycha was is uncertain. Gr: onux "nail" or "claw." 20th C.

Onyx ? a A type of chalcedony, usually with layers of different colors. It has often been used for cabochons and beads, especially in cameo engraved gems such as the famous Gemma Augusta, dating to about 10 CE, which depicts the Emperor Augustus surrounded by deities. Gr: onux "nail" or "claw." Onyx is regarded as a strength-giving crystal, useful in helping people take control and come to terms with the past-both in this life, and past lives. A birthstone for December and Leo, it is sometimes aligned with Capricorn. Late 19th C.

Opal Y The name of a gemstone highly prized for its iridescence. Gr: opallios "opal" < San: upala "stone"-specifically "precious stone." The Greeks believed opals were formed from the tears of joy wept by Zeus when he defeated the Titans. They also believed that the opal bestowed prophetic powers upon its owner, while the Romans considered it a symbol of hope, purity, and good fortune. The birthstone for October, the opal is still regarded as a stone which can amplify or mirror feelings, and so is good for creativity and dealing with emotional problems. In more recent times, however, opals have acquired a reputation for bad luck unless the opal is actually a person's birthstone. This is perhaps because in the past people believed Witches used black opals to increase their magical powers and focus them on people they wished to harm. Sir Walter Scott's novel Anne of Geierstein (1829), which featured an opal talisman with seemingly evil powers, was responsible for halving the value of opals and crippling the European opal market for decades. Opals were only saved by virtue of being a favorite stone of Queen Victoria. 19th C.

Opaline Y "Opaline" is an English adjective meaning resembling an OPAL." Early 20th C.'The medieval Opalina is a variant of APOLLONIA.

Ophan c? Hebrew: "wheel." The Ophanim are a class of angels who were said in the apocryphal Book of Enoch to guard the throne of Yahweh. According to some versions, they were the actual wheels of his chariot.'They are sometimes referred to as the "many-eyed ones."

Ophelia Y The first example of Ophelia is Ofelia in Jacopo Sannazaro's *Arcadia* (1504). It is uncertain where Sannazaro found the name, though a likely source is Gr: *dphelia* "help" and "succor." Shakespeare may have taken the name from Sannazaro for his character of Ophelia in *Hamlet*, or come up with it independently. Likewise, its use from the seventeenth century may have been inspired by Shakespeare or simply be the adoption of the Greek abstract noun along with others such as *Sophia* and *Alethea*. Var: *Ophela*, *Ephelia* (hist). It, Sp: *Ofelia*. Bearers: *Ophelia St. Clare*, a character in *Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852); *Ofelia*, the central character in the film *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006).

Ophion e The name of an obscure Greek deity, also known as *Ophineus*, whom *Apollonius of Rhodes* states was the original God of Mount Olympus, where he dwelt with *Eurynome* until being cast out by *Cronus* and *Rhea*. He may have featured more prominently in the *Orphic Mysteries* than in mainstream Greek religious practice and mythology. *Robert Graves* put forth the hypothesis that *Ophion* was a serpent (deriving his name from Gr: *aphis*- "snake"), created by *Eurynome* as she danced on the primordial waves. *Ophion* fertilized her and she laid an egg around which *Ophion* coiled until it hatched-out of it was born the world.

Opigena 2 Epithet of *Juno* meaning "born of OPS." It is also the name of a genus of moth.

Opis Y The name of one of the *Nereids*. It was also the name of a *Hyperborean* maiden who arrived on the island of *Delos* at about the same time as *Apollo* and *Artemis*. It is generally believed that *Opis* was in fact a name of *Artemis* herself-or a local deity who came to be associated with her. The etymology is uncertain. Possibly Gr: *ape* "sight" or *ops* "face" or "countenance."

Oprah Y Modern variant of *ORPAH*. Its use from the late twentieth century is entirely due to the American actress and chat-show host *Oprah Winfrey* (b. 1954). It is fairly well attested that in her case, the variation arose as a mistake on the birth certificate.

Opranna 2 Twi: *opranna* "thunder" and "thunderstorm."

Ops Y The Roman Goddess of plenty. In some myths, she is called the wife of Saturn and mother of Juno and Jupiter. L: ops "power," "might," "wealth," "riches," "aid," and "succor."

Optimus a Latin: optimus "(the) best" and "(the) excellent," the superlative of bonus "good." An epithet of Jupiter, frequently coupled with maximus "(the) greatest," especially in Rome. 19th C. Fem: Optima.

Ora y Although ora means "edge," "coast," and "region" in Latin, the name was probably conceived as the command form of L: oro "to pray," i.e. "pray!" Alternatively, it may simply be a variant of AUREA. Late 16th C.

Orabel Y Variant of ARABELLA used in the Middle Ages. It has been used again since the nineteenth century, mostly in North America. Var: Orabelle. Orabelle has since acquired the meaning of "beautiful seashore," by dissecting it into L: ora "coastline" + Fr: belle < beau "beautiful," which is worth observing-but is not its actual origin.

Orachorn ? Thai name-orochon "slender," "delicate," and "graceful."

Oracle ? d In the ancient world, an oracle was the medium through which a God or Goddess spoke prophecies. The most famous were at Delphi in Greece (the Pythia), and Cumae in Italy (the Sibyl), but there were a number of others. The word is also used of an oracular pronouncement. L: oraculum "oracle" < orb "to pray" and "to entreat." Late 20th C.

Oram c~ English surname, derived from ORM and much confused with ORAN and OREN. 17th C.

Oran c~ The Anglicized form of the Irish Odhran or Odhron. It is the name of a sixth-century saint (reputedly the son of the Irish King Conall Gulban), who is said to have preceded St Columba on Iona. CE. 01: odhar "pale," "sallow," and "dun-colored" + dim. suffix -an. In Modern Scots Gaelic, bran means "song." Oran is also a rare surname, a variant of ORANGE, and this may account for some instances of the name in England before the twentieth century. Oran has been much confused with ORAM, OREN, and ORION. 19th C. Var: Otteran.

Orange Y The name of the fruit and the tree from which it grows was first known as the pume orange in English c. 1200. It: arancia < Ar: naranj < San: ndrarrga "orange." The Seville orange arrived in Europe in the Middle Ages, while the sweet orange came from China in the sixteenth century. The name of the fruit was first used as a color in the same century. The female name Orenge and its variant Orange appear from the early thirteenth century-later becoming Orange. They gave rise surnames such as Orange, Orringe, and ORAN. This name's origins are obscure, but it is not beyond the realms of possibility that it comes from the same source as the fruit-tree and its fruit. From the late seventeenth century, Orange's use as a given name may represent the surname, or be in honor of William of Orange, who became King William IV in 1688. Orange, the place in Southern France, was originally called Arausio, which seems to have been the name of a local Celtic God. It is probably derived from CC: *arawar-/*arawan-"grain."

Orcadia Y A medieval name for the Orkney Islands. In Roman times, they were called the Orcades, and it is generally agreed that its name derives from CC: forko- meaning "young pig." Whether this arose as a personal name, which became a tribal name, and then was attached to the islands, or whether the islands were associated with pigs in some way is less easy to say. Certainly, pigs played an important part in Celtic lore-such as Pryderi's-and did not have the lowly status they have today. 20th C.

Orcanet Y a An old form of alkanet. OF: orcanet < L: ALCANNA. The mutation to or- probably arose through association with Anglo-Norman: or "gold."

Orchid y The word "orchid" is a surprisingly recent (nineteenth-century) development. While most orchids are tropical, there are numerous varieties native to the British Isles. The earlier form was Orchis, which was used for any of the European orchids. Gr: orkhis "testicle" (the Oxford English Dictionary encourages you to compare it to "bollockgrass" I kid ye not). Orchids symbolize love, beauty, and sophistication. Early 20th C.

Orchil Y The name of an obscure Saxon Earth Goddess. She is beautifully described in a prose poem by Fiona Macleod (William Sharp): "I dreamed of Orchil, the dim goddess who is under the brown earth, in a vast cavern,

where she weaves at two looms. With one hand she weaves life upward through the grass; with the other she weaves death downward through the mould; and the sound of the weaving is Eternity, and the name of it in the green world is Time." Her name is probably from the same source as Gothic: our *ja* "gardener," which is related to L: *hortus*- "garden." The word "orchil" is also the name of a red or purple dye made from various lichens in the Middle Ages. Now it is principally used of the lichens themselves, in particular *Roccella tinctoria*. It is believed to derive from an Arabic word, though its ultimate meaning is unknown. Var: Archil, Orchilla.

Orcus c' A Roman God of the Underworld, considered a punisher of perjurers, probably through association with Greek Horcus (Gr: *horkos* "witness" and "oath"), personified as a God who avenged broken oaths. Orcus seems to have been of Etruscan origin, and was portrayed as a bearded, hairy giant. He was mostly worshipped in the countryside and survived in folklore and as the "wild man" in rural festivals. His name passed into Old English as *ore* "demon," French as *orque* "hell," and Italian as *orco*-a man-eating giant. Tolkien's later adoption of the word is known to have been directly from the Old English. Orcus is also believed to be the origin of the word "ogre," which in its original sense meant "fierce Pagan," and only later became a type of flesh-eating giant like the Italian *orco*. 19th C.

Ore c~ Y Today "ore" is mostly thought of as a substance from which a metal can be extracted, such as iron ore or copper ore. As such, it is symbolic of raw potential, with the implicit understanding that what lies within is of great value and worth. An older and now obsolete ore-etymologically unrelated-came from OE: *era* "honor" and "protection," and in Middle English meant "respect," "reverence," "honor," "glory," "grace," and "mercy." Other unrelated and also long-since-obsolete meanings are "beginning," "shore," or "coast"-and "seaweed." The surname Ore derives from yet another source, OE: *Ora* "hill-slope" and "flat-topped hill." 18th C.

Oregano Y c~ A herb closely related to marjoram-they are in the same family-and share most of their qualities and associations. Oregano is often called wild marjoram. Sp: *oregano* < L: *origanum* < Gr: *origanon*,

interpreted in ancient times as Gr: oros "mountain" + ganos "brightness," "gladness," joy," and "pride." However, this probably represents fanciful etymologizing on the part of the Greeks; its real origin is believed to be African. "Oregano" is found in the ESW only since the nineteenth century. In the past, it was called organum, Origan, Organy, and Orgamy, the last two from the Late L: organum < L:organum.

Oren G~ Obscure biblical character. Heb: "ash-tree" or "pine." It has been much confused with ORAN, ORAM, and ORION. 16th C. Var: Orin, Orren.

Orestes e The name of the son of Agamemnon by Clytemnestra, and the brother of Electra. Gr: oros "mountain." He avenged his father by murdering his mother (who murdered his father), bringing the wrath of the Furies upon his head. 18th C.

Oretta Y Oretta's use in the ESW in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was probably as a variant of ARETE. The name does, however, feature in Boccaccio's Decameron as a surname of the Madonna, a diminutive formed on either It: oro "gold" or ora "hour"-or possibly L: oro "to beg."

Organza Y The name of a type of stiff and transparent fabric, usually silk. The word "organza" came into use in the early nineteenth century; prior to that, the fabric was called Organzine. Fr: organsin < It: organzino < Organzi, the old name for the town of Urganj in Uzbekistan, known in medieval times for being a centre of the silk trade. Var: Organdie, Organdy.

Oriana ? Almost certainly influenced by ORIANDE, Oriana was coined by Elizabethan poets-in honor of their queen-from L: orior "to rise"-used specifically of the rising sun. 16th C.

Oriande Y The name of a fairy responsible for the upbringing of Maugris-one of the heroes of the early medieval Chansons de Geste. L: orior "to rise"-and thus cognate with ORIANA. Var: Oriante.

Oriel Y c Old German: Aurildis-aus "fire" + hilt "battle" or "strife." Used in Britain after the Norman Conquest in forms such as Oriel, Oriolda, Oriholt,

and Oriol. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it was confused with Aurelia and Auriol, and is even encountered as a man's namepresumably as a misspelling of Uriel. Oriel College, Oxford derives its name from MF: oriole, "upper room" or "porch" < Gr: aule "court."

Orient d' Y The "Orient" is an old-fashioned name for Asia and the Middle East, and is now mostly reserved for poetic use or to describe rugs and vases. L: oriens "the East" < orior "to rise"-a reference to the rising sun. 19th C.

Orinda ? Orinda was used as the pseudonym of the Anglo-Welsh poet Katherine Philips (1632-64). It was coined from L: orior "to rise," and was probably inspired by ORIANDE or ORIANNA. The ending in -inda was popular for "poetic names" at the time. Late 17th C.

Orinoco Y e The name of one of the longest rivers in South America. It features famously in a 1988 song by Enya, as well as being the name of one of The Wombles, a well-loved British children's television series with quite a strong ecological message, based on books first written by Elisabeth Beresford in 1968.'The name of the river means "a place to paddle (with a paddle)" in the language of the Warao, an indigenous people of the Orinoco valley. 20th C.

Orinthia Y Orinthia is a literary coinage, a combination of ORINDA with the ending -nthia, which was popular with seventeenth-/eighteenth- century poets. The earliest example is a poem by the little known English poet Elizabeth Teft entitled "Orinthia's Request to the Gentleman of Fortune" (1741). Teft published a volume of her poems with the title Orinithia's Miscellanies in 1747. The name also featured in Pugni's ballet Orinthia on le camp des Amazones (1847), and George Bernard Shaw used it again in The Apple Cart (1928). 18th C.

Oriole y The name of a small European songbird, particularly the golden oriole, known for its beautiful golden plumage. L: aureolus "little golden one." Early 20th C.

Orion c~ The name of a legendary Greek huntsman who, after being struck either by a blow from Artemis or from a scorpion (which became the

constellation Scorpio), was placed among the stars as probably the most recognizable constellation of the night sky. In other versions of the myth, he is said to have been chasing Pleione and/or her daughters, before Zeus raised all of them up to the firmament. He was also reputedly a lover of Aurora, and the most handsome mortal who ever lived. The etymology of the name is not known for certain, but there is a very strong chance that it derives from the Akkadian Uru-anna < urru "light" + anu "sky"-the name the constellation bore in Ancient Mesopotamia. 17th C.

Oriphiel c~ The name of one of the seven archangels, first listed by Pope Gregory I in the sixth century. The etymology is very uncertain; the best people seem to be able to come up with is Heb: "my neck is (a) God." Var: Orifiel.

Orison d Y Archaic and poetic word meaning "prayer." Anglo-Norman: oreison < L: oratio < oro "to beg" and "to beseech." 19th C.

Orithyia Y Orithyia was a name borne by more than one character in Greek mythology-a daughter of Nereus, a grandmother of Adonis, and a daughter of King Erechtheus of Athens. According to the myth, Boreas, God of the North Wind, fell in love with the Athenian princess and carried her off. She gave him two daughters, Chione and Cleopatra (not that Cleopatra), and two sons, Calais and Zetes, who grew wings and were amongst the crew of the Argo. She herself later became a Goddess of cold mountain winds. Gr: oros "mountain" + thug "to rush on" (used of the wind) and "to storm." 17th C.

Orkney cc Y Orkney-or The Orkney Islands-is the name of the famous archipelago of the northwest coast of Scotland.'The Gaelic name for the Islands is Insi Orc, from CC: forko- "piglet" (see Orcadia). In Old Norse, however, orkn means "seal," and the Viking invaders in the early Middle Ages assumed this was the island's name.'they duly slapped on ey "island"-and the name Orkney was born. Late 19th C.

Orla 2 Anglicized form of Old Irish Orlaith. Jr Ga: or "gold" + flaith "sovereignty" and "ruler." It was the name of the sister, daughter, and great-niece of Brian Born. Revived 20th C. Var: Orlagh, Orfhlaith.

Orlando cc The Italian form of ROLAND, made well known during the Renaissance through Boiardo's Orlando Innamorato, and Ariosto's Orlando Furioso. Shakespeare also used the name for one of the principal characters in As You Like It. 16th C. Bearers: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625), the English composer; Orlando Bloom (b. 1977), the British actor. Orlando: A Biography (1928) is a novel by Virginia Woolf.

Orm c Old Norse: ormr "serpent," "dragon," and "worm." It survived into the surname period, being responsible for surnames such as ORAM. It is also the source of the names of the Great and Little Ormes near Llandudno in North Wales. It returned to use in the seventeenth century, when surnames started to be used as given names.

Ornait 2 Old Irish: Odharnait-odhar "pale," "sallow," and "dun-colored" + fem. dim. suffix -nait.

Oronsay c~ ? The name of more than one Scottish island, many of which are extremely remote and very beautiful with rich and dramatic histories. ON: Orfirisey "tidal island." Sc Ga: Orasaigh.

Orpah Y A minor biblical character. 'The origin is disputed. Put forth are the etymologies from Hebrew: "she who turns her back" (presumably a reference to the fact that in the biblical tale, Orpah goes back to her own people, while Ruth stays loyally with their mother-in-law, Naomi) and "fawn." 17th C. Var: Orpha, OPRAH.

Orpheus e One of the most intriguing characters of all Greek mythology, Orpheus, the legendary poet and musician, was a central figure in the Mysteries-in particular, Orphism.'The story of his descent to the underworld to win back his wife Eurydice from the dead with his music-only to lose her again with one glance over his shoulder-is one of the most familiar of all the Greek myths.'The meaning of his name is, however, uncertain. It may be etymologically related to Gr: orphne "darkness"-specifically of the night. The Italian form Orfeo occurs in the anonymous English poem "Sir Orfeo" (c.1300). It is probable that Orpheus is also behind the Romani boy's name Orferus.17th C.

Orsino e The name of the principal male character in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. It is the Italian form of Ursinus < URSUS-the name of a third-century saint. 20th C.

Orson c~ A version of the Italian ORSINO used by Henry Watson in The Historye of the Two Valyannte Brethren: Valentyne and Orson (c. 1550), the earliest English language version of the French Chansons de Geste, the epic poems frequently set in the period of Charlemagne. Late 16th C. Bearers: George Orson Welles (1915-85).

Orthanach c Old Irish name-ortha "charm" and "spell"; usually translated as "potent in charms." It was the name of an eighth-century Irish poet.

Orthia 2 The name of a pre-Greek Goddess worshipped in the central Peloponnese and later identified with Artemis.'The meaning of the name is uncertain. In ancient times, it was derived from Gr: orthios "setting straight"-thought to relate to her role as a Goddess who presided over safety, newborns, and women after they had given birth, etc. However, even the myth regarding her cult in Sparta says she was an imported Goddess, and so it is quite possible the name is non-Greek in origin. Late 19th C.

Ortygia Y An epithet of Artemis meaning "of Ortygia." Ortygia was an old name for the island of Delos, where Artemis is often said to have been born.'There was another island called Ortygia off Sicily. Gr: ortux "quail"-the myth goes that it was created after the Titaness Asteria, having transformed herself into a quail to escape the attentions of Zeus, fell into the sea there. Most likely, it was simply home to many quails at one time.

Orville Rare English surname. There are a number of places in France called Orville, most notably, Orville in the Pas-de-Calais, which was originally a fifth-century royal residence. In the eighth century, it was recorded as Andriaca Villa; Andriaca is probably of Celtic or Frankish origin. One of these Orvilles may be the source of the surname, or it may have arisen as a variant of ORWELL.'The name came into general use in the eighteenth century-the question is why. There was a seventeenth-century Belgian missionary called Albert d'Orville, and the British writer Fanny Burney selected the name Lord Orville for the hero of her influential novel Evelina (1778)-either may have prompted its adoption. Bearers: Orville

Wright (1871-1948), the aviator. In Britain, Orville is most associated with the green duckling puppet Orville, star of ventriloquist Keith Harris's repertoire in the 1980s, while in America, it is identified with Orville Redenbacher (1907-1995), a businessman associated with a brand of popcorn that bears his name.

Orwell C~ The name of a river in Suffolk, England, adopted by the British writer Eric Blair (1903-50) as his penname-George Orwell. The etymology is cloudy. The first element is probably PIE: *reyH- "flow." The "well" is OE: wella "stream." The surname derives from a slightly different source-Orwell in Cambridgeshire: OE: ord "pointed hill" + wella. 17th C.

Osbert cc Old English: os "(a) God" + beorht. Osbert was the name of a ninth-century king of Northumbria. It remained in modest currency during the Middle Ages, giving rise to an identical surname, and just about survived one way or another, until a revival in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Sir Osbert Sitwell (1892-1969), an English writer.

Osborn a' Old English: Osbeorn-os "(a) God" + beorn, a poetic word for "a man." The related ON: Asbjorn-ass "(a) God" + bjorn "bear"-also survived into the Middle Ages and together they are responsible for surnames such as Osborne. From the seventeenth century, examples probably represent the use of the surname as a given name. Var: Osbern (hist). Bearers: Rev. Osborne Whitworth-a particularly odious character in Winston Graham's Poldark novels (1945-2002). Oscar c' There are two possible sources of Oscar. OE: Osgar-os "(a) God" + gar "spear," cognate with ANSGAR- did not last long after the Normans invaded Britain. The Old Norse form Asgeirr may have been carried to Ireland, but it is more likely that the Oscar found there is a native Irish name-Ol: as "deer" + cara "friend." It appeared in some Old Irish poems, and was adopted as the name of the son of the mythical bard Ossian in the Ossianic Poems by James Macpherson. This was highly influential across Europe and Napoleon was a great fan. It led to him bestowing the name upon his Godson, who grew up to become King Oscar I of Sweden, leading to the name's widespread use in Northern Europe in the nineteenth century. Cz, Get, Pol, Sw: Oskar. Lith: Oskaras, Fin: Oskari. Bearers: Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), the Irish poet and playwright-his father treated King Oscar I; Oskar Schindler (1908-74).

Osirian c~ "Osirian" is an English adjective meaning "belonging to" or "pertaining to OSIRIS." First used by Keats in his poem "Endymion" (1818). Osirion < Gr: Osireion is used principally of a temple of Osiris at Abydos in Egypt.

Osiris The name of the Egyptian God, who was murdered by his brother and returned to life by his sister and consort Isis. He is Lord of the Underworld, and ruler of the blessed dead. Osiris is also regarded as a fertility God; his death and rebirth was considered symbolic of the annual flooding of the Nile, which allowed the growth of crops along its banks. Osiris-the usual name by which he is known today-is the Greek form of his Egyptian name, which is transliterated in various ways, including Asar, Asari, Wesir, Usir. The etymology isn't certain; it may be derived from the Egyptian: wsr "powerful," or perhaps be linked in some way with ASr "inundation." It is also possible the name is not Egyptian at all, perhaps deriving instead from the Akkadian ASHUR, although the two deities share little in common. Late 19th C.

Oski e A name of Odin. ON: osk "wish." Also used as a pet-form of OSCAR.

Osmond c' Old English: Osmund-os "(a) God" + mund "protection." It lingered in use in medieval times, giving rise to surnames such as Osman. The bestowal of surnames from the seventeenth century reinforced it until its general revival in the nineteenth.

Osnait Y Old Irish name-os "deer" + fem. dim. suffix -nait.

Osprey cc Y Late Latin: avis prede "bird of prey." Also known as a "sea-hawk," the osprey has long featured in myth and legend. King Nisus of Megara was turned into an osprey after his daughter cut off his hair-which was essential to his life-and gave it to his enemy King Minos of Crete with whom she had fallen in love (she was turned into a ciris; it is unknown what type of sea bird a ciris actually was, but it is assumed it was a natural enemy of the osprey). The osprey's reputation for keen eyesight means that the osprey has become a symbol of those with vision. In the Middle Ages, there was a belief that ospreys mesmerized their prey by magic. In modern times, the osprey has become a symbol of conservation. 20th C.

Osram c Twi: osram "moon" and "giant."

Ossian cc Anglicized form of OISIN, used by Macpherson in his Ossianic Poems. 19th C.

Oswald a' Old English: Osweald-os "(a) God" + weald "power." It was the name of two English saints, one a seventh-century king of Northumbria. 'Mere was also a cognate Old Norse name Asvald. Bearers: Oswald Mosley (1896- 1980), a notorious British fascist; Oswald Bastable, a character created by E. Nesbit, who first appeared in *The Story of the Treasure Seekers* (1899).

Oswin cc Old English: os "(a) God" + wine "friend." Oswin just about survived the Middle Ages, after which it was reinforced by the adoption of the surname which derived from it. There is a seventh-century saint of the name.

Osyth y The name of a seventh-century saint, whose story strongly suggests the Christianizing of a Pagan Goddess, or-at the very least-the merging of a historical figure with a Pagan deity. By the time Matthew Paris was writing in the thirteenth century, Osyth was associated with an ancient holy well at Quarrendon, which was said to be the site of her martyrdom-she was supposedly beheaded by Viking marauders. She was still able to pick up her head and walk to the door of a local convent. OE: Osgyy-os "(a) God" + gyd "war" or "battle." 16th C. Var: Osith.

Othello f The eponymous tragic hero of Shakespeare's play. It was based on a story written by the Italian Cinthio, in which the character of Othello is known only as the "Moorish captain." It is generally accepted that Shakespeare coined the name, possibly inspired by a character in Ben Jonson's *Every Man and His Humour* (1598), in which there was a jealous husband called Thorello-though the origins of this aren't known either. Othello may simply mean "little OTHO." 19th C.

Othiel d' The name of an Angel recorded in *The Lemegeton*, a seventeenth-century grimoire. Aleister Crowley named him as one of the "three evil forms" who preceded Samael (the others being Qemetial and Belial),

though this is not actually stated in Lemegeton. It seems to have been confused with Othniel, and perhaps even Othello. 18th C.

Othniel c~ The name of a couple of minor biblical characters. Heb: "lion of (a) God." 17th C.

Otho c~ Otho has two distinct origins: a medieval variant of ODO, and the name of a first-century CE Roman Emperor-Marcus Salvius Otho-who ruled for three months in 69 CE. His name is probably of Etruscan origin. 17th C.

Otis a' Otis, along with the similar Otes, Otys, and Oates, was a variant of ODO that just about survived the Middle Ages, after which it was reinforced by the surname being used as a given name. In nineteenth-century America, it was often bestowed in honor of James Otis, Sr. (1702-78) and his son James Otis, Jr. (1725-83), who were both prominent in the American Revolution.

Otter c~ Y The word "otter" ultimately derives from the same root which also gives us "water." Otters feature prominently in many myths and legends; the Goddess Ceridwen changes into an otter when chasing Gwion, and the dwarf Otr in Norse mythology often turns into an otter. A creature of land and water, the otter represents joy and the inner child. The surname Otter is a direct adoption of the English word. 18th C.

Ottokar c Old German: nod "riches" or "wealth" + wacar "watchful." 19th C. Var: Otokar.

Ottoline 2 A diminutive form of ODILE. 19th C. Bearers: Lady Ottoline Morrell (1873-1938), the English pacifist and patroness of the arts.

Ouida Y The pen-name adopted by the nineteenth-century novelist Maria Louise Rame (1839-1908). She coined Ouida from her efforts to say her name Louise as an infant. Late 19th C.

Ovid c? The English form of Ovidius, the name of a famous Roman poet, best known for his narrative poem the Metamorphoses (8 BCE). The meaning of the name is unknown. In ancient times, it was derived from L:

ovum dividens "dividing egg," believed to refer to the world or cosmic egg, but this is very unlikely. A derivation from plain ovum "egg" is more plausible. 17th C.

Owain c~ Ancient Welsh name which has remained in constant use for at least fifteen hundred years. It is cognate with the Irish EOGHAN and Scottish EWAN. Usually Anglicized as OWEN, the name has been borne by numerous Welsh princes, most famously Owain Glyndwr (c. 1354c. 1416)-known as Owen Glendower in English.

Owel Gg Anglicized form of the Irish Eogabal, the name of a Druid and foster-son of Mannanan, who became the father of Aine. The meaning is uncertain; it is not beyond the realms of possibility that it was an Irish Gaelic form of the Welsh HYWEL. 20th C.

Owen c~ The English form of OWAIN. Used in the ESW since medieval times, especially in the Marches between England and Wales. Fem: Owena (mod).

Oxya Y Greek: oxua "beech-tree."

Oxys e Epithet of Ares. Gr: oxus "sharp" or "piercing."

Oya ? Yoruba name of the River Niger; Oya is personified as a Goddess associated, among other things, with magic. She is a consort of Shango.

Oyin Y Gc Nigerian name. Yoruba: oyin "honey."

Oyinlola Y Nigerian name. Yoruba: oyin "honey" + ola meaning "wealth," translating as "wealth is honey"-i.e. "sweet."

Oz c' Short or pet-forms of names beginning with Os- and Oz-, such as OSWALD and OZIAS. Oz is well known also from The Wizard of Oz. It has also been an affectionate term for Australia since the early twentieth century. Var: Ozzie, Ozzy.

Ozan c~ Turkish name-ozan "poet," "bard," and "wandering minstrel."

Ozgur c Turkish name-ozgur "free."

Ozi c y Romani: ozi "heart" and "mind."

Ozias G~ There are a number of minor characters in the Bible called Ozias. Heb: "strength of Yahweh." 16th C. Bearers: Ozias Humphry (1742-1810), the English miniature portraitist.

Ozymandias c The Greek form of Egyptian: wsr-mAat-ra stp-in-ra, the throne name of Ramesses the Great, generally normalized as User-Maat-Re Setep-en-Re, or something similar, meaning "the strong law/truth of Ra, chosen by Ra." The first-century BCE historian Diodorus Siculus records an inscription on a statue which reads "King of Kings am I, Osymandias. If any would know how great I am and where I lie, let him surpass one of my works." The name has been made familiar by Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem of 1818, said to have been inspired by a statue of King Ramesses, which arrived in London in 1816 and is now housed in the British Museum. 20th C.

Pabi y Welsh: pabi "poppy." 20th C.

Pabo c~ The name of a fifth-/sixth-century Welsh saint. He is almost certainly one and the same as PEIBIO. His epithet is Post Prydain-"Pillar of Britain." 20th C.

Pacifera Y Epithet of the Goddess Minerva. L: paciferus "bearing peace." 19th C.

Pacific e ? By and large, an adoption of the name of the ocean. It was first named Mare Pac fco about 1520 by the Spanish, Portuguese, and Italians because Ferdinand Magellan had reported that it was calm. L: pac fcu "making peace," "peace-loving," and "tranquil." "The English adjective "pacific" is used to mean "peaceable," "conciliatory," and "tranquil." Early 20th C. Fem: Pacifica.

Padarn Old Welsh name. Latin Paternus "of a father" and "paternal." St. Padarn was a sixth-century saint. According to a medieval hagiographer, a "brigand" called Arthur tried to steal his tunic; this hints that, as is the case with many Welsh "saints," there is more to Padarn than meets the eye. Another Padarn was the fourth-century Padarn Beisrudd (Scarlet Robe), who lived in the "Old North" of Britain (i.e. Southern Scotland) and who, according to legend, owned a red cloak, which was one of the `Thirteen Treasures of Britain.

Padma Y One of the names of the Hindu Goddess Lakshmi. San: padma "lotus"-a reference to the sacred lotus Nelumbo nucifera. Lakshmi is often depicted standing on a lotus with its flowers in her hands. Bearers: Padma Patil, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Padmavati Y A name with a number of associations; it is the name of three Goddesses, one Jain, the other two Hindu. It was also borne by a fourteenth-century queen of Chittor. It means "she who emerged from the lotus." Padmdvati (1923) is an opera by Albert Roussel based upon the classic sixteenth-century Indian poem Padmavat by Malik Muhammad Jayasi, which tells the story of the Chittor queen.

Padmini Y San: padmini "lotus"-usually interpreted as "she who sits on the lotus." "This is another epithet of the Indian Goddess Lakshmi.

Padraig (' Irish Gaelic form of PATRICK; it is often written without the accent, and sometimes Anglicized as Porick. Var: Padraic, Padhraigh. Dim: Paidin-Anglicized as Paudeen. Sc Ga: Padraig, Paraig.

Paeon c' Y Today the word "paeon" is used to mean any song-or indeed any expression-of praise, thanksgiving, victory, or tribute. Originally, however, a paeon was a hymn of victory dedicated to Apollo under the name Paeon. L: paeon < Gr: Paian, a late form of Paion < paion "healer" < paio "to strike" and "to drive away"-i.e. disease or illness. Paeon was a minor Greek deity, a physician to the other Gods, who cured Ares and Hades with his great knowledge of herb-lore. In the myths, he was originally a mortal pupil of Asclepius, whose healing powers so enraged his master that Zeus intervened and saved the young man by turning him into the peony.

Paeonia 2 Latin: paeonia "peony."

Pagan e Y One of the most extraordinary things about names and naming practices in the Middle Ages is the popularity of the name Pagan, which gave rise to the surname Payne and its numerous variants-including Pagan itself. The name derived directly from L: paganus "of a village" and "rustic"-contrasting with urbanus "of a city"-and thus (in the minds of the Romans at least) "refined" (see Urban). L: pagus "village," from which paganus derived, came from pango "to fasten" or "to fix" (from which "page" also comes); pagus probably therefore had the original meaning of "place with fixed boundaries."The sense of "non-Christian" only became attached to paganus in the fourth century, when Christianity became the state religion. Exactly why is unclear; a popular argument is that Christianity took hold mostly in the cities, while in the country, people by and large weren't so interested, preferring to maintain their allegiances to the Old Gods. This may in part have been due to the fact those in the cities were much more cut-off from Nature than their rural cousins, and because for many, life in the cities was much rougher, disenchanting, and disaffecting. Also, city-folk were often divorced from their roots and families, frequently hundreds, if not thousands, of miles from the place of their birth. They had often left their own Gods behind and found

themselves in cities with temples to deities they'd never heard of, and practices quite alien to their own. Evangelizers almost certainly concentrated their efforts in the cities, partly because they too knew all the above and knew the city dwellers would be easier prey. Also, from a purely practical point of view, it was easier to reach a much greater number of people with less effort. Another theory put forward places emphases upon a later meaning of *paganus*: "civilian," as opposed to a soldier (*miles*). Since Christians often called themselves "soldiers of Christ," those who weren't Christians would, by consequence, be "civilians." It may, indeed, have actually been a bit of both. Or the real clue may lie in the date this meaning arises-after Christianity became the state religion.'The state functioned in cities. Suddenly, in order to be anything or achieve anything in Roman society, men and women had to become Christians-and these movers and shakers did most of their moving and shaking in the cities. *Paganus* was used as a surname in Roman times, but there is no saint of the name-only a couple of medieval Blessed. Why the name was used in the Middle Ages and why it enjoyed moderate popularity is a bit of a mystery. Neither the suggestion that it was bestowed upon children whose baptism had been delayed, or that it was a derogatory nickname for an adult who wasn't as "devout" a Christian as he ought to be is particularly convincing, especially the latter, as it is clear Pagan was used as a genuine given name.'The usual medieval form in England was Payn. It had fallen completely out of use by the Reformation, and examples of Pagan in the nineteenth century are mostly the surname being used as a given name, particularly as it is mostly found as a second name although one dreads to think what the parents of George Comfort Pagan Hickman, baptized in 1829, had in mind for him. The name returned properly at the end of the 1960s. Dim: Pagenel, Paynel (hist). Var: Payne, Pagen, Pagane; Paygan, Paygen, Pagyn (mod). There is no reason why the Latin feminine of *paganus*-*Pagana*-shouldn't be used as a girl's name either-or even the Latin diminutive *Paganilla*. The *Paganalia* was a Roman country festival held in January.

Pagasaeus a Epithet of Apollo, deriving from *Pagae*, the name of the harbor of the city Megaris on the Gulf of Corinth. Gr: *page* "trap" or "snare"-presumably in the context "fishing net" < *pegnumi* "to make fast" and "to fix." This is exactly cognate with L: *pango* from which PAGAN derives (it is not, however, related to "peg").

Paige Y English surname, a variant of Page, deriving from ME: page "a page" i.e. a young male servant. Its use as a girl's name dates to the mid-twentieth century, and was probably sparked by Paige Palmer (1916-2009), born Dorothy Rohrer, who hosted the first fitness-oriented television show in America, called The Paige Palmer Show (1948-73). Bearers: Paige Matthews, a Witch in the American television drama Charmed (1998-2006). Var: Page, Payge, Peige.

Pais 2 Epithet of Hera. Gr: pais "child," though in this context it means "girl," specifically a girl destined for marriage-an allusion to Hera's role as Goddess of marriage.

Paisley Y A pattern originally used for shawls manufactured in Paisley in Scotland, which were based on shawls, imported from Kashmir in the eighteenth century. It features a characteristic tear-drop design. In India, this is a fertility symbol. Paisley itself probably comes from Middle Irish: baslec "church" < L: basilica "basilica" (originally a public building used for the administration of justice) < Gr: (stoa) basilike "the Royal Stoa"-the name of a portico in Athens used for judicial affairs < basileos "king." Its first use as a given name, in the nineteenth century, principally for boys, was as an adoption of the surname; its use as a girl's name is late twentieth-century and almost certainly an adoption of the name of the pattern.

Paiva ? Finnish name paiva "day." Var: Paivi.

Paizi Y Romani girl's name of uncertain etymology. It may perhaps be related to the Greek PAIS. Another possibility might be PAGAN. Var: Paizini.

Pal e Scots Gaelic form of PAUL; Anglicized as Pol.'The English word "pal," found in use from the late seventeenth century, derives from Romani: phal "brother" < San: bhrāh^ "brother."

Paladin e Originally, the Paladins were the twelve peers of the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne, but the word came early to mean "knight errant" and to be applied to any very brave or very chivalrous man in medieval romances. It derives from PALATINE.

Palaemon G~ The name of a Greek sea God, who came to the aid of sailors in distress, along with his mother Ino. For how he became a God, see Melicertes. Gr: palaio "to wrestle."

Palamedes c Greek: palai "long ago" and "in days of yore" + medos "plans" and "schemes." Palamedes was the son of Nauplius, King of Nauplia (modern Nafplio), by the Cretan princess Clymene. He was a brilliant young man, and is credited with the invention of a number of things-counting, currency, weights and measurements, certain letters of the alphabet, a type of early chess, dice-even jokes. At the outbreak of the Trojan War, Agamemnon chose him-as Odysseus's equal in intelligence-to fetch Odysseus to join the fleet. Odysseus was pretending to be mad to avoid having to participate; he had sown his fields with salt and was plowing away with an ox and a horse yoked together. Palamedes tricked Odysseus into revealing that he was actually perfectly sane by placing Odysseus's infant son Telemachus in front of the plow. Odysseus never forgave Palamedes for it, and later engineered his death. The name was bestowed by medieval writers of the Arthurian Romances upon a Saracen Knight of the Round Table. Var: Palamede.

Palatine e 2 Epithet of Apollo in reference to the Palatine Hill in Rome, upon which he had a temple. The etymology of Palatinus-the original Latin form-is uncertain. It may be from L: palatum "palate" or "roof of the mouth," probably from Etruscan: falad "sky." From the time of Augustus, the Palatine was the site of the palaces of the Emperors, and it was so famous as such that "Palatine" came to mean any regal abode-the word "palace" evolved from it. It also came to mean the courtiers associated with an emperor, and is thus the origin of PALADIN and the Counts Palatine-nobles who elected the Holy Roman Emperor in later years. In Medieval French literature, Palatine was used as the name of one of the sisters of Melusine.

Palden e Tibetan name-dpal ldan "illustrious," "glorious," and "talented," used as a title for Buddhist masters < deal "auspiciousness," "abundance," and "perfection" + ldan "possessing."

Pales 2 The Roman Goddess of flocks and shepherds. Her feast was called the Palilia and was held on April 21. This date was also considered the

"birthday of Rome."

Palestine 2 e Palestine is found as a given name from the nineteenth century. Its origin is the same as the biblical Philistines-the earliest mention being in an Egyptian text as Peleset. Before that, however, the word's history is murky. Attempts have been made to derive it from a Hebrew root meaning "divide," "go through," or "invade." An intriguing alternative is a derivation from Gr: phule histie "hearth tribe," and some scholars argue that the Philistines were originally Mycenaean Greeks. In the second century CE, the Roman province of Judaea was renamed Syria Palaestina, which in English became Palestine in the seventeenth century.

Palila Y An endangered Hawaiian bird. A honey-creeper with a golden-yellow head and breast, it is closely associated with the mamame tree (*Sophora chrysophylla*). 20th C.

Palladia Y Feminine form of Palladius "belonging to Pallas" < PALLAS.

Pallas 2 c~ The feminine form of Pallas is an epithet of Athene. Its etymology is uncertain; it possibly derives like the male name-from Gr: pa/16 "to brandish," with the sense of brandishing a spear or other weapon. However, this doesn't quite work linguistically, and it may derive from an obsolete, possibly pre-Greek word pallas "young woman." It may even have been borne by a Goddess worshipped in the area of Athens before the Greeks arrived, who was merged with Athene. The male name Pallas was borne by three figures in Greek mythology, including a Titan. 19th C.

Pallav cc Indian name. San: pallava "bud," "sprout," and "tender leaf." Var: Pallab. Fem: Pallavi.

Palm cc Y Deriving from L: palma "palm tree," but also used of the leaf or branch of a palm tree. It took its name from the word meaning "palm of the hand," a reference to the fan-shaped manner of its growth. In the Middle East, the palm has been hugely important since prehistoric times, with the date one of the most crucial crops of the area. In Islamic legend, it was said to have sprung from the clay left over from making Adam. Because of the story of people strewing palms in front of Jesus on his arrival into Jerusalem, it has become closely associated with Easter, and the event is

commemorated by Christians on Palm Sunday, when little crosses woven from palm leaves are made and distributed. In the Middle Ages, these tended to be made from willow, box, or yew-palms being few and far between in Medieval Britain. 19th C; the tendency for bearers to have been registered in the second quarter of the year hints at it sometimes being used for children born at or around Palm Sunday.

Palma Y Latin: palma "palm." Used from the nineteenth century, it may have been bestowed upon children with connections to the island of Palma in the Canary Islands, or the city of Palma on Majorca. Both take their name from the Latin.

Palmer c English surname. OF: palmer "a palmer"-a name given to pilgrims to Jerusalem. Such men and women carried palms as a symbol of their pilgrimage, and on the return to their home parishes, would lay the palms on their church altar. 17th C.

Palmerin cc The eponymous hero of Francisco de Moraes Cabral's sixteenth-century Palmerin of England. The etymology is unknown. It may be that Cabral made it up, or perhaps took it from Palmyrenus "of PALMYRA"-a name adopted as a surname by the Roman Emperor Aurelian after he defeated Queen Zenobia in 272 CE.

Palmistry Y cc Also called chiromancy, palmistry is the art of divination through reading the palm of the hand. L: palma "palm." It is a skill particularly associated today with the Romani, but is known to have been practiced in ancient times by Greek and Babylonian astrologers.

Palmyra 2 The legendary oasis city of Syria, evocatively known as "the Bride of the Desert," which was the capital of the short-lived Palmyrene Empire created by Queen Zenobia. The name probably derives from L: palma-"a palm"referring to the many palms that still grow around the oasis, which were of immense economic importance to the town, as attested by carvings at the temple of Bel there. 19th C.

Paloma y Spanish: paloma "dove" and "pigeon.."The jewelry designer and perfumer Paloma Picasso (b. 1949) is the youngest daughter of Pablo

Picasso, and is probably responsible for the name's use in the ESW since the latter twentieth century.

Pamela Y A name invented by the poet Sir Philip Sidney for a character in *Arcadia*, possibly from Gr: pan "all" + meli "honey," i.e. "sweetness." The name may also have been inspired by *Samela*, a reworking of Greek *Semele* by Sidney's contemporary Robert Greene, or possibly *Pamphile* or *Pampinea*. The name featured again in Samuel Richardson's *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded* (1740). This was the number one best-seller of its day, and the name came into genuine use from then on. Bearers: The Hon. Pamela Harriman (1920-97), an English aristocrat and socialite, daughter-in-law of Sir Winston Churchill; Pamela Anderson (b. 1967), the American actress; Pamela Ewing, a character on the American soap opera *Dallas* (1978-91). Dim: Pam, Pammie, Pammy. Var: Pamala, Pamella, Pamela.

Pamphile Y A Witch in Lucius Apuleius's second-century novel *Golden Ass*. Gr: pan "all" + philos "love." Pamphile was also the name of a legendary woman of Kos, who was credited with being the first to spin silk. A historic Pamphile was Pamphile of Epidauros, a first-century CE historian, who was much respected in the ancient world for her *Historical Commentaries*. 20th C. Pamphile is also a French boy's name-the French form of Latin Pamphilus, and the male equivalent of Pamphile. Pamphilus was borne by a minor character in Greek myth, a fourth-century BCE painter and a third-century saint.

Pampinea Y A character in Boccaccio's *Decameron*. L: pampineus "garlanded with vine-leaves" and thus "flourishing." The pampinea corona referred specifically to the crown of vine leaves worn by the God Dionysus, who, as God of drama as well of wine, was an appropriate allusion for Boccaccio to make in the name of the character who initiates the book's storytelling, and is thus the driving force behind the whole work.

Pan e Y Greek: pan "all" and "everything." Pan is the unruly pipe-playing God of Nature at its wildest, encompassing the regenerative force of Nature-and one of the principal deities revered by Pagans today. He began as an Arcadian shepherd God, depicted as half-man, half-goat. His parentage was much disputed in ancient times; in some versions he is a son of Hermes by Penelope, in others of Zeus by Hybris-the personification of

hubris, which means "insolence" in Ancient Greek. His ability to instill fear in lonely places is behind the word "panic." Some Christians like to gloat that "Pan is dead"-a refrain found in a number of poems across more recent centuries. This arose because of an anecdote of the Greek historian Plutarch, who recounted a tale about some sailors in the early first century CE. They were reputedly addressed by a voice at sea which said, "'Ihamus," (usually understood to mean one of the sailors) "when you reach Palodes, take care to proclaim that Great Pan is dead." However, this is a case of a classic communications failure. The true message (delivered supernaturally or otherwise) was "the All-Great'Ihammuz is dead," the Greek adjective panmegas "all-great" being mistaken for "Great Pan." Its corruption demonstrates the ignorance surrounding the worship of Tammuz, which involved an annual funeral. It doesn't appear that this incident (even if it isn't just a "myth," which cant, of course, be ruled out) had any impact at all on Pan's worship in ancient times; no doubt most never heard it, and Pan's influence remained well into Christian times. How much is difficult to say, as reliable sources are lacking, but certainly Christian painters in medieval times chose to adopt the image of the great Pagan God of Nature to represent their notion of the Devil-it can't be a coincidence. Other vestiges of the great Horned God are known to have lived on in folkmemory into early modern times, such as Herne the Hunter. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Pan was at last rehabilitated by pastoral poets, and by the end of the Victorian period, he was generally regarded as the irrepressible spirit of Nature. J. M. Barrie deliberately chose Pan as the surname for his pipe-playing Peter Pan. Pan also features positively in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* (1908). 19th C.

Panacea Y In ancient times, the word "panacea" was used of various plants reputed to have universal healing powers and was personified as the daughter of the God of healing, Aesclepius. Gr: panaikes "all-healing." 20th C.

Panache a' Y French: panache "plume of feathers" < It: penacchio < L:pinna "high point of a temple" < L:pinna "wing." In the nineteenth century, it came to mean "flamboyant style," "swagger," and "heroic courage." Late 20th C. Var: Panache; Panachee Y.

Pancras (' Usual English form of Latin Pancratius < Gr: Pankratos < pas "all" + krates "to rule." It is the name of two saints-one of the first century, the other of the third. St. Pancras's New Church in London is a famous early nineteenth-century replica of the Erechtheum temple on the Acropolis in Athens. 16th C. It: Pancrazio, Ru: Pankrati, Ger: Pankraz.

Pandion The name of two legendary kings of Athens. Pandion I had a surprisingly unremarkable life for a character of Greek mythology. His only claim to fame was that he married a nymph and fathered Procne and Philomela. Pandion II was the father of the better known Athenian King Aegeus, one of the Argonauts. Gr: pas "all" + dios "divine."

Pandora 2 The woman created by the Gods as the bride of Epimetheus-in punishment for his brother Prometheus's theft of fire, which he gave to mortals. Each of the Gods contributed to her creation, hence her name-Gr: pas "all" + didomi "to give," i.e. "gift of all [the Gods]." As her dowry, she brought a box, given to her by Zeus, who had commanded her not to open it-knowing full well she would. The box contained all the evils of the world. When Pandora opened it-and realized what she had done-she snapped it shut again, but it was too late; everything had flown outexcept hope. 19th C. Bearers: Pandora, the title character of Anne Rice's vampire novel Pandora (1998).

Panselina 2 Feminine of Panselinus, the Latinized form of Gr: panselenos "at the full moon."The Greek adjective was both masculine and feminine.

Pansy y "Pansy" was originally used only of the heartsease (Viola tricolor). Later it became the common name for any of the viola family. Fr: pensee "thought." Mid-19th C. Its use as a slang-usually derogatory-term for a weak, effeminate, or homosexual man since the 1920s, has damaged its use as a given name, and Rowling's use of it for the not particularly pleasant character Pansy Parkinson in the Harry Potter series probably hasn't done much to help it either. Var: Pensee.

Panther c'y Latin: panthera < Gr: panther < pas "all" + ther "wild beast." In Antiquity, the word was used of the leopard or any other large, spotted cat. In medieval lore, the panther was believed to be friendly to all beasts except the dragonbut this legend probably arose as a result of its name.

Only later-when the fact that it was quite a dangerous animal became known in the West-did the poor animal become associated by Christians with evil and hypocritical flattery. The surname derives from OF: panetier-a term used for a type of household officer in charge the pantry, specifically the distribution of bread. 18th C.

Panthia Y A Witch in Lucius Apuleius's second-century novel Golden Ass. She and her accomplice Meroe murder a man called Socrates by magic. Panthia may be a Latinized form of Greek Panthea < pas "all" + theos "God." Late 20th C.

Panya c~ Y A name mostly found in Southeast Asia for boys.'Thai: panya "knowledge," "wisdom," and "intellect." In Swahili, panya means "mouse."

Papaver a' Y Latin: papaver "poppy." 20th C.

Papaya Y The fruit of the papaya tree- Carica papaya. It is much valued as a fruit rich in nutritional value, eaten raw when ripe or cooked when still green-as such it is popular in the cuisine of Southeast Asia. Among its many medicinal qualities, it is used internally to treat digestive problems, externally to treat cuts, rashes, stings, and burns, and as a contraceptive. The name derives from the Native American Taino word for the plant.

Paphia 2 Epithet of Aphrodite, deriving from Paphos in Cyprus, which was one of her major cult centers. Paphos was said to take its name from a son of Pygmalion and Galatea. The meaning is unknown-it is likely to be pre-Greek, as it has been inhabited since pre-Greek times, and there is evidence that a cult surrounding a fertility deity on the site is very ancient.

Paprika Y The word "paprika" came to English from L: piper "pepper" via Serbian and Hungarian. Originally (in the nineteenth century), it was applied to a dish flavored with sweet red pepper, and then to the distinctive ground powder which was used to make such a dish. In the twentieth century, it has been used as a color in reference to the distinctive deep red of paprika powder. Paprika is said to be rich in vitamin C and surprisingly good for easing indigestion. Late 20th C.

Paracelsus c~ The name by which the alchemist, astrologer, botanist, and physician Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim (1493-1541) is best known. Gr: para "beside," and "beyond" + CELSUS, a reference to the first-century physician. Late 20th C.

Paradise 2 "Paradise" actually has quite a long history as a given name, with examples dating to the sixteenth century. Late L: paradises < Gr: paradeisos-a word originally used of any enclosed park, orchard, or pleasure ground. It came to be used of the Garden of Eden and to mean "Heaven," when the word was adopted by Christian writers.

Paraskevi 2 Modern Greek name paraskeue "Friday," which in Ancient Greek meant "preparation." There is more than one saint of the name venerated in the Easter Orthodox Church, the early two almost certainly little more than personifications of the concept of "Good Friday." Ru: Praskovya.

Paree ? Persian name pari "fairy." Var: Pari.

Pareerou Y Persian name pari "fairy" + ru "face."

Pareesa ? Persian name pari "fairy" + -sa "like." Var: Parisa.

Paris Y c~ A son of King Priam of Troy. Because of a prophecy which said he would cause the fall of Troy, he was supposed to be left on Mount Ida to die, but he was adopted by the man ordered to expose him, and raised as a shepherd. It was Paris whom Aphrodite, Athene, and Hera asked to judge who, as the most beautiful, should receive the golden apple, which Strife had tossed into the wedding feast of Peleus and Thetis. Each offered him a reward-Athene promised him wisdom, Hera dominions-and Aphrodite the most beautiful woman in the world. Paris didn't let the fact he was already married affect his decision-and he awarded the apple to Aphrodite.

Unfortunately, the most beautiful woman in the world was also already married-Helen, wife of King Menelaus of Sparta. Paris abducted her, sparking the Trojan War. Paris was a renowned archer; it was he who felled the Greek champion Achilles by shooting a poisoned arrow into his heel-the hero's only vulnerable spot. Paris himself was eventually killed by the Greeks' best archer, Philoctetes. Paris may have his roots in a historic

figure; in ancient times he was also called Alexander, and Hittite records-contemporary to the period when the Trojan War is believed to have taken place-list a King Alaksandu. The name Paris was probably attached to him at a later date. Its etymology is very murky. One suggestion is that it is connected with Gr: pera "back-pack," because he was carried home in a back-pack by his surrogate father. Others have derived it from Gr: pariemi "to pass by"; this may be in reference to the fact he was supposed to be exposed to die as a baby, but a further, more interesting meaning is "to allow to pass," "to let in," and "to admit"-perhaps a reference to the fact that Paris's actions ultimately led to the Greek sack of Troy. Late 16th C. Since the nineteenth century, it has also been used for girls-being an adoption of the name of the French capital. The city of Paris gets its name from the Gaulish tribe who inhabited the area in the Roman period-the Parisii. Bearers: Paris Hilton (b. 1981), the American socialite.

Parker cc Y English surname. OF: parquier "park-keeper." A medieval park was an enclosed area of land held by royal grant and reserved for the keeping of deer and other game for hunting. 17th C.

Parrhasius c? Epithet of Apollo, deriving from Parrhasia-an area of Arcadia in Greece. Apollo had a temple on Mount Lycaeus there, where an annual festival was held in his honor. It was also the name of a historic fifth-century BCE Greek painter who was famous in the ancient world. In a contest with Zeuxis over who could paint the most realistically rendered subject, Zeuxis painted grapes, which the birds tried to pick; thinking he'd won, he told Parrhasius to draw back the curtain over his painting-only to discover the curtain was the painting. He conceded defeat.

Parsifal c~ The version of PERCIVAL used by Wagner for the 1882 opera of the same name. It derives from the thirteenth-century German form Parzifal, which was used by Wolfram von Eschenbach. 19th C.

Parsley 2 c~ A herb much used in cooking, but also possessing a number of medicinal and magical usages. Ruled by Mercury and Air, the herb was said to have been given its name by the Divine Twins, Castor and Pollux, and in Greek times it was dedicated to Persephone and used in funerary rites. Wreaths of parsley were also placed on the tombs of the dead, and it was not used for cooking-being considered too sacred. Magically, it is now

used for protection and purification, and can also be used to increase libido and promote fertility. In modern herbal medicine, it is considered good for all kinds of complaints, from menstrual problems to relieving rheumatism; in the past, parsley seeds were even used against the plague. Anglo-Norman: persil, percale, persel < OF: perresil < L: petroselinum < Gr: petroselinon < Petra "rock" + selinon "celery." The English surname has a different source-OF: passelewe-"cross the water." 18th C.

Parthalan c? In Irish mythology, Partholon was said to have led the first settlers to Ireland after the biblical flood. The first mention of him is in Nennius's *Historia Britannorum* in the ninth century. Partholon may be an early Irish Gaelic form of Bartholomew. Given the biblical references of the story, it is likely he is a late invention, an attempt by men like Nennius to marry the Bible-which contains no reference to the British Isles-with British and Irish history. Var: Partholan, Parthalon. Sc Ga: Parlan.

Parthenia 2 Latinized form of Gr: partheneia "maidenhood.-There is also the Greek adjective parthenios "of a maiden" (and "of the Maiden"), "maiden," and "maidenly." Epithet of Artemis. 16th C. Dim: Parthy. Parthenia (c. 1611) was the name given to the first printed collection of music for the keyboard in England, so named because at the time the usual generic term was "Virginals." Bearers: Parthenia "Parthy" Hawks, a character in *Showboat* (1927).

Parthenice Y A plant in Roman times; exactly what it was is not clear, but it is now used as the botanical name of a genus in the daisy family. Gr: parthenike < parthenikos "of a maiden," or "for a maiden" was used as a poetic form of PARTHENOS. 19th C.

Parthenope 2 A name borne by two characters of ancient myth, the first a daughter of a king of Samos and the mother of Lycomedes, the second, one of the sirens. The latter gave her name to a Greek settlement in Campania, Italy, which has long been swallowed up by Naples. The elder sister of Florence Nightingale was called Frances Parthenope (1819- 90), because she was born in Naples. This may be true of some of the other Parthenopes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries also. Gr: parthenopos "of maiden aspect" and thus "of feminine softness."

Parthenos y Greek: parthenos "maiden." A title of Athene under which she was worshipped at the Parthenon in Athens. It is also the Ancient Greek name for Virgo.

Parvati ? A Hindu Goddess, considered a representation of Shakti. In some strands of Hinduism, she is the supreme Divine Mother. She is sometimes depicted as a Triple Goddess with Saraswati and Lakshmi. San: parvata "mountain"-a reference to the fact her father is Himavan, Lord of the Mountains, the personification of the Himalayas. Bearers: Parvati Manners, the daughter of Daphne Manners in Paul Scott's Raj Quartet (1966-75); Parvati Patil, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Parvin Y Originally a Persian name for the Pleiades, Parvin is now used as a girl's name across the Islamic world-particularly in India and Pakistan. Var: Parveen.

Pasca ? A feminine form of PASCOE, used in the Middle Ages. It lingered in country use until the early nineteenth century, especially in the West Country counties of Cornwall and Devon. Var: Pascha, now treated as a variant of PASHA.

Pascale French name from L: paschalis "of Easter" and "of Eastertide" < Gr: paskha "Passover" < Aramaic pisha "Passover festival" < Heb: pasah "to pass over." It was originally bestowed on children born at Eastertide. The name was used in Britain during the Middle Ages in the forms Pascale, Paschale, Paschall, Paskell, but did not survive. It is known today as the surname of French philosopher Blaise Pascal (1623-62), known for "Pascal's Wager" or "Pascal's Gambit"-a favorite argument still employed by proselytizing Christians. It was rather nicely countered by Voltaire, who called it "indecent and childish," stating, "the interest I have to believe a thing is no proof that such a thing exists." It: Pasquale, Sp: Pascual.

Pascale Y French feminine form of PASCAL. Var: Pascaline. Sp: Pascuala, It: Pasquala.

Pascent e Anglicized form of Latin Pascentius, a Roman cognomen < pascens "nourishing" and "supporting" < pasco "to feed" and "to nourish." It was a name borne by one or more shadowy figure from sub-Roman

Britain, appearing on the eighth-century Pillar of Eliseg near Llangollen in North Wales, which was erected by a king of Powys in honor of his grandfather. It is also found in various other Old Welsh texts, in forms such as Pascen, Pasgen, and Pasken.

Pascoe cc Middle English: Pask "Easter," it derives from the same source as PASCAL. Pascoe was used as a given name usually for children born at Easter-from the Middle Ages in forms such as Pasch and Pasques-and later Pascoe and Pascowe. Pascoe continued in use in the West Country-especially Cornwall-well into the twentieth century. Var: Pasco, Pascow. Elsewhere, use from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is more likely to be surname related.

Pasha Y Russian pet-form of Pavel (see Paul), used as a name in its own right in the ESW since the twentieth century. It is also used for girls. Var: Pascha. In Turkey, Pasha was a title borne by governors of provinces, and certain other military or civil officers during the Ottoman Empire.

Pasiphae Y A daughter of Helios, Greek God of the sun, by the sea-nymph Perse. She was the wife of King Minos of Crete. Zeus took a fancy to her, visiting her in the form of a bull, and the product of the liaison was the Minotaur. By King Minos himself, she was the mother of Ariadne and Phaedra. Her niece was Medea, and she shared Medea's skill in magic and knowledge of herb-lore. In historic times, she was worshipped in some areas as a Goddess, and was sometimes equated with Ino and Selene. Gr: pas "all" + phaos "light"-with the sense of "light to/for all."

Pasithea Y One of the Graces and a Nereid. Gr: pasis "acquisition" + thee "sight," or pas "all" + thea "Goddess"-with the sense of "Goddess to/for all." Var: Pasithee. 18th C.

Passiflora Y Botanical name for "passionflower"-a combination of Late L: pass- of PASSION + flos "flower." Late 19th C.

Passion ? Passion was originally used with reference to the "Passion of Christ," a term used by Christians to denote the sufferings of Jesus, culminating in the crucifixion. Late L: passio "suffering" < patior "to suffer" and "to endure.." The word was also used of saints and the narratives

of their sufferings and martyrdoms. In medieval and early modern times, it was used to mean any suffering or painful disorder or affliction of the body, acquiring its meaning of any strong, overpowering emotion as early as the thirteenth century; the notion of a "fit of passion" (i.e. anger), strong affection and romantic love date to the sixteenth century, and of sexual desire or intense enthusiasm to the seventeenth. First used as a name in the sixteenth century.

Passionflower 2 The passionflower was named by sixteenth-century Spanish missionaries in South America, who interpreted it as allegorical of the "Passion of Christ" (see Passion); the five petals and five sepals were said to represent the ten apostles (Judas and Peter being conveniently omitted), the tendrils the scourges, the filaments within the flower the crown of thorns, and so on and so forth. This original association is now lost in the minds of most people, in the same way as "Passion" itself, and to most people it has strong overtones of romantic love and desire-as does Passionfruit.

Patchouli Y The word "patchouli" came to English from French in the early nineteenth century. It derives from a Dravidian source, probably related to the Tamil *paccai*, meaning "fragrant plant" and "fragrance," though its exact source is unknown. It is much used in incenses. It is ruled by Saturn and Earth, and used in magic in spells relating to money and love. Late 20th C. Var: Patchouly.

Patience Y One of the better known of the Puritan "virtue" names, found from the sixteenth century. OF: *pacience* < L: *patientia* "endurance" < *patior* "to suffer" and "to endure." Dim: Pat, PATSY. Bearers: Patience, the title character in *Patience* (1881), an operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Patricia Y Feminine of PATRICK. First used in the sixteenth century, it was popularized by Princess Patricia of Connacht (1886-1974), granddaughter of Queen Victoria, whose full name was Victoria Patricia Helena Elizabeth. She was born on St. Patrick's Day, and was always known as Patricia-Patsy to her friends and family. Dim: Pat, Patti, Pattie, Patty, PATSY, Tricia, Trish, Trisha. Jr Ga: *Padraigin*, Sp, Port: *Patricia*, It: *Patrizia*, Pol: *Patrycja*. Bearers: Patricia Kennealy-Morrison (b. 1946), the American Pagan author of science-fiction and fantasy.

Patrick e Patrick is a saint who needs little introduction; the man who has taken the credit for converting Ireland to Christianity, and is revered in Ireland second to none-as far as the male saints go. His feast day-March 17-was almost certainly assigned to him because it had formally been an important Pagan festival; its proximity to the Spring Equinox is unlikely to be coincidental. Unlike so many of his "contemporaries," he was definitely a real man-and a shrewd, calculating one at that. L: Patricius < patricius "patrician", referring to the elite of the old Roman aristocracy, the privileged few families descended from the founding fathers-L: patres- of the city of Rome. By Patrick's day in the fifth century, it meant simply "noble" and it is impossible for us to know whether Patrick was the name he acquired at birth, his family name, or a nickname he acquired in the course of his early life. Although many of the historical deeds later ascribed to him were probably the actions of another Christian missionary, Palladius, there can be no doubting Patrick's impact on Ireland, for good or ill. Some of the tales surrounding him are of course completely fictitious, and the products of overimaginative hagiographers, such as the business regarding his driving out of snakes from Ireland. True, there are no snakes in Ireland-but that's because there never were snakes in Ireland. As a given name, Patrick's take-up was late in Ireland; the names of the most revered saints were not used until the seventeenth century-and only then perhaps through the influence of Scottish settlers in Ulster. Once introduced, however, it established itself as one of Ireland's most popular names. Patrick was used in the North of England and Scotland in medieval times; it fell out of favor after the Reformation, but was revived in the nineteenth century. Dim: Pat, PATSY (hist); Paddy (Irish)-so common by the early eighteenth century that it became a generic term for an Irishman. Jr Ga: PADRAIG, Sc Ga: Padraig, Paraig, W, Breton: Padrig, Haw: Patariki, Fr: Patrice, Port: Patricio, Rom: Patriciu, Dut, Ger, Nor: Patrick, Cz, Sw, Ru, Serb, Slv, Bul: Patrik, It: Patrizio, Pol: Patryk. Bearers: Sir Patrick Moore (b. 1923), the British astronomer and writer; Patrick Stewart (b. 1940), the English actor; Patrick Swayze (1952-2009), the American actor; Patrick McCollum (b. 1950), the Wiccan author.

Patriot a "Patriot" developed from Late L: patriota "fellow countryman" < Gr: patriotis "of one's (fore)fathers." The word has been used since the sixteenth century for someone with strong feelings of affection for their

country, prepared to fight to protect it and its "values." In twentieth-century America, "patriot" has also come to be used for an opponent of the involvement of federal government in the affairs of individuals-especially regarding gun-ownership and payment of taxes. Mid-20th C. Patriot's Day is celebrated in America on April 19, commemorating the Battle of Lexington in 1775.

Patrocles c~ A name which features in both Greek mythology and Greek history. One bearer was a Greek hero during the Trojan War-the best friend of Achilles-who was killed by the Trojan Prince Hector. Gr: pater "father" + kleos "glory." Three historic figures also bore the name-a fifth-century BCE poet, a teacher of rhetoric, and a third-century BCE geographer. 19th C. Var: Patroclus.

Patsy 2 Originally a pet-form of PATIENCE, and later PATRICIA, Patsy has been used as an independent name since the eighteenth century. In the past it was also used as a pet-form of PATRICK, but this use is now obsolete-or as good as. In America, "patsy" is used to mean "a scapegoat," and in Australia, "a homosexual."

Paula English form of Latin Paulus/Paullus < paulus "small." Paul(l)us was a common cognomen in Roman times, most associated with the gens Aemilia. Its later use, however, is due to St. Paul-for all intents and purposes, the creator of Christianity. Paul has been in use since the Middle Ages. Arm: Boghos, Fin: Paavali; Paavo, Sp: Pablo, Hun: Pal, Sc Ga: PAL, Pb!, Alb: Pali, It: Paolo, Cat: Pau, Pol, Dut, Fr, Ger: Paul, Ru: Pavel; PASHA (dim); Galician, Haw: Paulo, Ukr: Pavlo, Mod Gr: Pavlos, Slk: Pavol, Pol: Pawel, Cornish, W: Pawl, It Ga: Pol, Dan: Poul. Bearers: Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906), the American poet; Paul Newman (1925-2008), the American actor; Paul Simon (b. 1941), the American singer-songwriter; Paul McCartney (b. 1942), the British singer-songwriter; Paul Huson (b. 1942), the British-born writer on Witchcraft; Paul Morel, the central character in D.H. Lawrence's Sons and Lovers (1913).

Paula 2 Feminine form of PAUL. There was a fourth-century saint of the name, who died in 404 CE and was much associated with St. Jerome. The name was barely encountered in the ESW, however, before the nineteenth century. It, Sp: Paola, Get, Rom, Port, Sp: Paula, Fr: Paule; Paulette (dim).

Bearers: Paula Tanqueray, the central character in Arthur Wing Pinero's *The Second Mrs Tanqueray* (1893).

Paulina Y Feminine form of PAULINUS, a name borne by a fourth-century saint, who was responsible for the name's use from the Middle Ages.

Bearers: Lollia Paulina (d. 49 CE), the third wife of Emperor Caligula; Caecilia Paulina (d. 235/36 CE), the wife of Emperor Maximinus Thrax, who was deified after her death. It: Paolina, Fin: Pauliina, Pol, Sp, Sw: Paulina, Fr: PAULINE.

Pauline ? French form of PAULINA, itself the feminine of PAULINUS.

Bearers: Pauline Bonaparte (1780-1825), the sister of Napoleon, who was largely responsible for the take-up of the name in the ESW in the nineteenth century. *Pauline* (1839) is a novel by George Sand.

Paulinus e Roman cognomen < L: paulus "small." Probably the best-known example is Gaius Suetonius Paulinus (fl. 1 CE), the Roman general who suppressed Boudicca's revolt. The seventh-century St. Paulinus was an accomplice of St. Augustine. 13th C. Var: Paulin, Pawlin, Pawlen, Pawlyn.

Pausanias c? Borne by a number of prominent Greek Pagans in Antiquity, such as the second-century CE geographer and traveler, whose surviving works are hugely important for telling us about sites in the ancient world-particularly temples and other places of Pagan worship-as well as myth and folklore. Gr: pauo "to stop" or "to end" + ania "sorrow" and "distress." 20th C.

Pavia Y A historic Italian city. Its name is believed to derive from It: papia "of a pope" < L: papa < Gr: pappas "daddy." Its ancient name was unrelated (Ticinum.) 19th C.

Pax ? cc Latin: pax "peace." 16th C-sometimes those recorded as Pax in a document may have been called Peace. The surname sometimes derives from pax, but is also a variant of Packs or Pakes < OF: pasques "Easter." Pax saw an increase of use in the immediate aftermath of the World Wars, particularly the First. The American actress Angelina Jolie gave the name to an adopted son in 2007.

Paxton c~ English surname, from Paxton in Huntingdonshire. OE: Paecc (a personal name of unknown origin) + tun "farmstead" and "enclosure." 17th C.

Paz 2 Spanish name-paz "peace." It originated as a title of the Virgin Mary-Nuestra Senora de la Paz-"Our Lady of Peace."

Peace Y G~ Peace was first used as a given name by the Puritans in the sixteenth century, though whether the concept was intended, or the interjection "peace!"-i.e. "be quiet!"-is less clear, especially when the bearer is female. The name saw a renewal of use in the immediate aftermath of World War I, and was revived again in the late 1960s.

Peach Y e The peach has been cultivated from time immemorial. Indeed, it is not actually known in a "wild" form. The cultivation probably began in China. Confucius mentions peaches in the fifth century BCE. It reached Europe from Persia in the Roman period, hence its Latin name *Prunus persica* "the Persian plum." Peach leaves and bark are used in herbal medicine, for complaints such as whooping cough and bronchitis. It was also used in the past to get rid of worms. An Italian folk-remedy-still practiced in the twentieth century-involved rubbing warts with peach leaves then burying the leaves in the ground; the warts were said to drop off by the time the leaves decayed. Ruled by Venus and Water, the peach is used magically to induce love and increase fertility. The surname derives from OF: peche < L: peccatum "sin." 18th C. Var: Peaches-used since the 1960s. Bearers: Peaches Geldof (b. 1989), daughter of Irish rock star Bob Geldof

Pear Y cc The pear was one of the fruits taken to Britain by the Romans. Valued for its juicy, nutritious fruit and attractive blossoms, pears have been a favorite ever since. To the Chinese, the pear is a symbol of immortality, and the Greeks and Romans believed pears were sacred to Juno, Venus, and Pomona. Considered to be ruled by Venus and Water, the pear is strongly associated with love and lust, and used magically in love spells. It is also associated with Witches and magic-pear branches are one of the types of trees Witches are believed to fly on in Russian folklore, and according to the Roman historian Tacitus, the Germanii used pear-wood to make runes. Late L: pera < pirum. The surname derives from OF: per "peer" and "companion." 19th C.

Pearl 2 A pearl is a much-sought-after little ball of calcium carbonate found in mollusks such as oysters and mussels. They are created layer by layer from secretions produced by the creatures in an attempt to get rid of a foreign body, such as a grain of sand. In ancient times, it was believed pearls were formed by raindrops falling into open shells floating on the sea's surface. Because of their rarity and beauty, pearls have also long held symbolic and spiritual significance in many traditions. According to ancient Hindu texts, there are nine varieties of pearls-though some of these are mythological-and pearls are associated with numerous Hindu deities. In Christian symbolism, the spherical shape represents God-since it has no beginning or end-as well as love, truth, faith, and knowledge; "pearls of wisdom" remains a common expression. The Hymn of the Pearl is an important and influential text of Gnosticism, said to symbolize humankind's forgetfulness of its true origins. Pearls are also held to signify purity, integrity, and spiritual transformation. In heraldry, pearls represent silver or the moon. The surname Pearl arose metonymically for someone who sold pearls. Pearl has also long been a nickname for MARGARET, as its traditional meaning of "pearl" was well established even in medieval times. Late 17th C. Bearers: Pearl Prynne, the spirited little girl of the heroine of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter* (1850). Dim: Pearlie, Perlie, Pearly. Var: Pearle, Perlette. Sp, It: Perla, Fr: Perle.

Pebbles 2 The plural of "pebble"-a small, smooth rockPebbles is evocative of childhoods spent collecting specimens on beaches and the banks of rivers. Latter 20th C. Bearers: Pebbles Flinstone, a character in the American cartoon series *The Flintstones* (1960-66).

Pegeen Y Twentieth-century Irish elaboration of PEGGY. Its first appearance seems to have been in John Millington Synge's play *The Playboy of the Western World* (1907), in which it is used as a pet-form of MARGARET.

Peggotty Y Clara Peggotty-invariably referred to as simply Peggotty-is a sympathetic and likeable character in Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* (1850). Dickens made it up. Early 20th C.

Peggy Y Short form of MARGARET, used independently since at the least the eighteenth century. In twentieth-century America it was frequently

combined with other names, most notably Peggy Sue, made famous through the Buddy Holly song of 1957. Dim: Peg. Sc Ga: Peigi. Peg or Peggy of the Well was the name of a malevolent spirit associated with a well near Clitheroe in Lancashire, England, who was blamed for a number of drowning incidents and other fatal accidents in the area. She was associated with a headless statue at the well, called Peg o' Nell, which was presumably once the statue of a saint-possibly St. Margaret. Unless an animal was drowned on "Peg's Night" once every seven years, it was believed a human would die in the river before the morning-which has a distinctly Old Pagan ring to it. A similar character was Peg Powler of the Tees, another water spirit waiting for opportunities to drown women and children at Piercebridge in County Durham.

Peibio c A character from Welsh mythology who features in the Mabinogion. He-or another Peibio-was also a legendary king of Ergynyng. The meaning is unknown. Var: Peibiaw.

Peitho 2 Greek: peitho "persuasion." Peitho is the personification of persuasion-and seduction. In ancient times she was considered a companion of Aphrodite.

Peizhi y Chinese name. Mand: composed with pei "girdle ornaments" + zhi "wisdom" or zhi "angelica."

Pelagia 2 Greek: pelagios "of the sea" < pelagos "sea." It was the name of more than one early saint, venerated mostly in the Orthodox Church. One is the typical "death before dishonor" type; the other a former courtesan-the latter is almost certainly a Christianizing of Aphrodite. Fr: Pelagie, Ru: Pelageya. Bearers: Pelagia, the heroine of Louis de Bernieres Captain Corelli's Mandolin (1993).

Pelagius cc Deriving from the same source as PELAGIA, Pelagius was a name borne by an early saint or two and a couple of popes. The most famous bearer was the fourth-/ fifth-century "heretic," who denied the doctrine of "original sin"-a key teaching in Christianity. Instead, he preached a doctrine of "free will." He was very influential in his day and had many followers in sub-Roman Britain, from where he was widely believed to have originated. Indeed, he was accused by St. Augustine of

having revived "the Natural Philosophy of the Druids." It may be that, in his case, Pelagius was used to render a Celtic name-but what, is unknown.

Pelangi y Malay: pelangi "rainbow."

Peleg a' Biblical name. Hebrew: pelug "division," "schism," and "separation." 16th C.

Peleus a The name of the mortal man selected by the Gods-as the worthiest man alive-to be the husband of the sea nymph Thetis. Gr:pelos "dark" or "ash-colored."

Pelham e English surname, from Pelham in Hertfordshire. OE: Peola (personal name of unknown origin) + ham "homestead," "village," "manor."The Pelhams were an aristocratic English family, Dukes of Newcastle from 1715 until 1988.16th C.

Pelleas e In Arthurian Romance, Pelleas is the name of one of the Knights of the Round Table. In Malory's Morte dArthur, he falls in love with the scornful Ettarde; his friend Gawain promises to try to win her love for him, but ends up falling for her himself. Pelleas finds them asleep in bed together-but all he does is leave his bare sword between them. Gawain, feeling remorseful, leaves Ettarde. Meanwhile, grief-stricken Pelleas meets Nimue, the Lady of the Lake, who falls in love with him herself. Being a dab hand with a spell, she gains vengeance for Pelleas by making Ettarde fall in love with him after all ... Ettarde dies of a broken heart, while Pelleas and Nimue live happily ever after.'The name is almost certainly a reworking of PELEUS. Var: Pellias.

Peller cc Cornish: peller "enchanter."

Pelles c? A figure of Arthurian Romance, brother of Pellinor and father of Elaine-and thus the grandfather of Galahad. In some versions, he is the Fisher King-i.e. king of the mysterious land of Listenois and master of Corbenic, the Grail Castle. His name is almost certainly a corruption of BELI, though PWYLL is another possibility.

Pellinor c? The name of a king of Listenois in the legends of King Arthur. When he doubted the Grail quest, he received a wound, which could only be cured by the completion of the quest. His name is probably a corruption of Beli Mawr (see Beli). His father is Pellehan (Beli Hen-i.e. "Beli the Old"), and his brother is Pelles-the Fisher King. Var: Pellinore.

Pellitory ? cc Ruled by Mercury, Pellitory is the common name of a few small herbs. Among them are *Anacyclus pyrethrum*, which is prized for the efficacy of its root in easing toothache, and pellitory-of-the -wall (*Parietaria ojjicinalis*), used for treating gallstones, gravel, and other urinary tract complaints. ME: parietary < Anglo-Norman: paritarie < L: parietarius "of walls" < paries "a wall."

Pema ? Tibetan name-pad ma "lotus" < San: PADMA.

Pen Y c? In the ESW, Pen is principally a short form of PENELOPE, though in Welsh and Cornish pen means "head" and "chief." Pen is also well known for being the nick name of Robert Wiedeman Barrett Browning (1849-1912), the son of the poets Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Browning-it is said to have arisen from his attempts to pronounce "Wiedeman." Pen is also a Thai girl's name-phen "(pertaining to the) full moon."

Penarddun 2 In the Mabinogion, Penarddun-the daughter of Beli Mawr-was the wife of Llyr and mother of Bran, Branwen and Manawydan. Little else is known about her formally, but a clue lies in her name. W: pen "head" and "chief" + arddun "sublime" and "beautiful"-leading many to assume she is in origin a Goddess of beauty and perhaps also of love. This may well be true, but there is more. Arddun is also cognate with the name of one of the great Celtic Goddesses known from inscriptions in Antiquity-ARDUINNA.

Penda cc Y A seventh-century Pagan king and warrior of Mercia, who claimed descent from Woden. In Bulgaria, Penda is the name of a little female tassel-like doll, made mostly of red (symbolizing life and passion), gifted and worn with a male doll called Pizho, made mostly of white (symbolizing purity and the soul). Together they are called Martenitzi. They are worn from March 1 until the first stork, swallow, or budding tree is seen, when they are often tied as offerings in trees. Regarded as

mementos of the cycle of life and death, and balance in Nature, they are treated as amulets for health and happiness for the coming year. March 1 is the festival of Baba Marta "Grandma March," a cantankerous old woman with severe mood swings (much like the March weather). Wearing the Martinitzi is seen as asking Baba Marta for mercy in the hope she will bring the spring more quickly.

Pendragon cc English form of Welsh Pen Ddraig, the name borne specifically by King Arthur's father, but also attached to Arthur himself and to his grandfather, Ambrosius Aurelius. W: pen "head" and "chief" + draig "dragon." Some think this was a title of British kings in the sub-Roman period, but it may have been just a byname, or even a name applied in retrospect by writers of Arthurian Romances. 20th C. Bearers: Arthur Uther Pendragon (b. 1954), one of the best-known faces of modern British Druidry.

Peneli Y Romani girl's name, possibly deriving from PENELOPE. Var: Penhela.

Penelope Y The loyal and dutiful wife of Odysseus. She waited patiently for him for twenty years, while warding off some pretty persistent suitors for her hand-or so the principal version goes.'There is another, however, in which Odysseus returned home to find Penelope, cheesed off at his long absence, settled down with one of the suitors. He divorced her, she went to Arcadia, and became the mother of Pan by Hermes. Another tale, which follows on from the accepted version, tells how Telegonus, Odysseus's son by Circe, visited Ithaca to find his father-but accidentally killed him. He took Odysseus's body back to Circe-along with Penelope and Telemachus. Penelope then married Telegonus, and Telemachus married Circe-who made them immortal and they all lived happily ever after.'The name Penelope is probably pre-Greek, receiving a Hellenizing treatment which gave it the appearance of deriving from Gr: pene "thread" + lepo "to strip off (specifically rinds or husks) or "to peel"-a reference to Penelope's famous ploy of unpicking the weaving she had done every night for the shroud of her father-in-law Laertes, which she claimed she had to finish before she chose a new husband. 16th C. Dim: PENNY, PEN. Bearers: Lady Penelope Devereux, Lady Rich (1563-1607), believed to be the

inspiration for Stella in Sir Philip Sidney's *Stella*; Penelope Cruz (b. 1974); the Spanish actress; Lady Penelope Creighton-Ward, a character in the British supermarionation *Thunderbirds* (1965-66) well known for her pink Rolls Royce; Penelope Clearwater, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Peninnah Y Biblical name. Heb: peninnah "pearl" and "gem." Late 16th C. Var: Peninna, Penina.

Penna Y Latin: penna "feather" and "plume." It was also used poetically to mean "wing" and "flight." 19th C.

Penny Y Penny began as a pet-form of PENELOPE, being used independently from the nineteenth century. The word "penny" is unrelated and much older, deriving from the OE: peening "penny."

Pentacle Y c~ Regarded by many as the symbol of modern Paganism, the pentacle has long been regarded as a powerful talisman, and used as a symbol and tool of magic. MF: pentacle < L: pentaculum < Gr: pente "five" + Latin dim. suffix -culum. The word first occurs in the sixteenth century and features in many an old magical grimoire, such as the *Key of Solomon*. According to the sixteenth-century Cornelius Agrippa, its use is "to fore-know all future things, and command whole nature, have power over devils and Angels, and do miracles." Generally, a pentacle is regarded as being composed of a pentagram surrounded by a circle, although "pentagram" and "pentacle" are often used interchangeably. Some Wiccans and Witches use "pentacle" as the name of the symbol of the five-pointed star itself, and "pentagram" for a written or drawn pentacle.

Pentagram ' Y The word pentagrammon occurs in Hellenistic Greek texts meaning a five-pointed star, but it wasn't until the nineteenth century that "pentagram" was used as a word in English. Technically, it is the word now used in the English language to describe a five pointed star drawn with five continuous intersecting lines, but for the differences between "pentagram" and "pentacle," see Pentacle.

Pentalpha Y c~ A variant of PENTAGRAM, dating to ancient times. Gr: pente "five" + ALPHA, alluding to the resemblance of each point to a capital letter "a."

Pentangle Y e An older form of PENTACLE, first recorded in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century. Gr: pente "five" + agkon "bend."

Penthesilea Y A queen of the Amazons. During a battle with the Greeks during the Trojan War, she was killed by the Greek champion Achilles. He fell in love with her-either as she died in his arms, or after her death, after he had stripped her armor and seen her face.'The Greekrlhersites mocked him for it-and in his rage, Achilles killed him.'This led to Thersites's cousin Diomedes dragging Penthesilea's body around the battlefield before throwing it in the river. Gr: penthos "grief" + sillaino "to mock" or "jeer at." Late 16th C.

Pentheus c Greek: penthos "mourning" and "grief." A character in Greek mythology whose name means "grief" is unlikely to have a happy fate, and Pentheus's tale doesn't break the mould. The son of Agave, and nephew of Io, Autonoe, and Semele, he inherited the throne of Thebes after his grandfather Cadmus retired. Not long into his reign, his cousin-the God Dionysus-arrived in Thebes, bringing his cult with him. Pentheus defied him, and for his hubris, Dionysus saw to it that he was ripped to shreds by his mother and aunts-as much vengeance upon them for their treatment of Dionysus's mother as upon Pentheus for not acknowledging the Godhead of Dionysus. 18th C.

Peony Y A well-known herbaceous perennial, ruled by the Sun and Fire, and under the governance of Leo. L: paeonia < PAEAN. One legend surrounding the plant is that it is an emanation of the moon, and shines at night to protect shepherds and growing crops from storms and evil spirits. In the past, the seeds were sometimes threaded as beads and worn for protection. Seeds were also taken in mead or wine as a cure for nightmares, and were considered good for treating mental health conditions. Today it is still valued in herbal medicine for its efficacy as an antispasmodic, and in magic for its protective qualities.'The root as well as seeds are used, and can be carved into talismans. 19th C. Peony (1948) is a historical novel by Pearl S. Buck.

Pepita Y Spanish diminutive of JOSEPHA, used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. Its take-up may have been inspired by Spanish comic opera Pepita Jimenez (1896) by Isaac Albeniz with a libretto by the English

Francis Money-Coutts. Conchita Marquita Lolita Pepita Rosita Juanita Lopez was a 1942 song first performed by the Glenn Miller Orchestra and later by Bing Crosby. Since the sixteenth century, Pepita has also been the Spanish word for a pip or seed. The word came into English in the eighteenth century, used to mean a naturally occurring lump or nugget of gold.

Pepper 2 a By and large, Pepper has been used as a nickname for someone with a hot temper. It is found as a genuine given name, however, from the nineteenth century, when it probably represented the transference of the surname from OE: pipor "pepper"-used originally of a merchant of pepper and/or other spices.'The spice pepper has been known in the West since at least the fifth century; Attila the Hun was said to have demanded three thousand pounds of pepper in ransom for the city of Rome. It was extremely valued in the medieval and early modern periods-more valuable by weight than gold, hence a nickname in the past, "black gold."

Peppercorns are actually the dried fruit of the pepper vine. Most people today only acknowledge its culinary qualities, but ruled by Mars and Fire, it is also important in herbal medicine, used for a wide range of conditions, from constipation and nausea, to arthritis and vertigo. Magically, it is used for protection.

Pera y Late Latin: pera "pear." Late 19th C.

Perceforest c~ Meaning "pierce the forest"-perhaps implying prowess at hunting-Perceforest was the hero of a fourteenth-century prose romance, which mixed Arthurian Romance with the legend of Alexander the Great.

Percival c~ A name seemingly invented by Chretien de Troyes in the twelfth century for the hero of his Grail Romance Percevale. Old French: perce "pierce" + val "the valley." Chretien's work was very influential, and Percival was soon established as the name of one of the most significant of the Knights of the Round Table. 'The surname derives from the same source. 14th C. Dim: PERCY, PERRY. Var: Perceval. Bearers: Dr. Percival "Perry" Cox, a character in the American comedy-drama Scrubs (2001-10).

Percy c~ The Percy family was one of the most powerful baronial families of the Middle Ages, eventually becoming Earls of Northumberland.'They

took their name from Percyen-Auge in Normandy.'The given name was at first used in the seventeenth century by families with connection to the aristocratic Percys, such as Lord Percy Somerset (1696-1721), son of the heiress of the Percy family. Bearers: Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822), the English poet; Lord Percy Percy, a character in the British comedy series *Blackadder* (1983-89); Percy Weasley, a wizard in the Harry Potter series; Perseus "Percy" Jackson, the principal character of Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series (2005-09).

Perdita Y Perdita was coined by William Shakespeare from L: *perditus* "lost" for the heroine of *A Winter's Tale*. 18th C. Bearers: Perdita, the "Witch's daughter" of Nina Bawden's *The Witch's Daughter* (1966).

Peredur c~ The name of a knight of Arthur, associated with the Grail in the Welsh Arthurian Cycles. W: *peri* "spear" + *dur* "steel." 19th C.

Peregrine c~ Latin: *peregrinus* "stranger" or "traveler." A seventh-century Italian saint. Peregrine is also the name of a type of falcon, which derives from the same source. Peregrines are migratory birds, and in the Middle Ages when falcons were taken into captivity, they were caught during their migration, rather than taken straight from the nest-hence the name. They were particularly prized and protected by royal decree during the Middle Ages.'These birds are protected again, but for a different reason, having reached the verge of extinction in the 1960s. Their illustrious past is reflected in the fact that they remain a symbol of nobility and clear sight-on account, of course, of their extremely sharp eyesight. The surname Peregrine mostly derives from *peregrinus*-used predominantly of those who went on pilgrimages (the word "pilgrim" also derives from the word)-in some cases it may be from the given name. 13th C. Dim: PERRY. Var: Peregrin. Fem: Peregrina. It: *Pellegrino*. Bearers: Peregrine Spenser (1596-1642), son of Edmund Spenser the poet; Peregrin Took, a hobbit in *Lord of the Rings*, who is usually called PIPPIN.

Perenelle Y Medieval variant of PETRONILLA. Bearers: Perenelle Flamel (1320-1402), the wife of the legendary alchemist, Nicolas Flamel.

Perfect c~ 2 Although this name has the resonance of the Puritan "virtue" names first adopted in the sixteenth century, the first examples of Perfect as

a given name date only to the eighteenth century. The fact that it was almost exclusively male in early usage, and later features more as a middle rather than a first name, suggests that in many cases, these Perfects were receiving a surname. OF: parfit"perfect."

Perfica 2 Roman Goddess of perfection, credited with bringing all things to perfection, particularly in Nature. She is also said to be the Goddess who presides over sexual indulgence. L: perficio "to accomplish" and "to perfect."

Periboea 2 A name borne by a number of minor characters in Greek mythology, such as the mother of Ajax, the mother of Penelope, the foster-mother of Oedipus and one of the Oceanids. Gr: peri "around" + boao "to shout" and "to proclaim"-when used of the wind, "to roar" and "to howl"; periboao itself means "to defame."

Pericles ' Pericles (495-429 BCE) was a legendary Athenian statesman and general prominent during the Peloponnesian War. Gr: peri "around" + kleos "glory," with the sense of "surrounded by glory""The name is still popular in Greece today, the modern name usually transliterated into English as Perikles and Periklis. 16th C.

Periclytus cc Epithet of Hephaistos. Gr: periklutos "highly renowned." It was also the name of a late fifth-century BCE sculptor.

Peridot Y c~ Gem-quality Olivine, probably deriving from Anglo-Norman: pedorettes < L: paederos < Gr: paideros < pais "child" + eras "love." Peridot is known for its protective qualities, specifically for the aura. It is also said to be good for cleansing the body and the chakras, and for helping people to put the past behind them. It is also believed to aid labor, and strengthen and heal many internal organs. Late 19th C.

Perimaktria 2 Greek: perimaktria "one that purifies by magic," hence "a Witch."

Perimede ? There are one or two characters in Greek mythology called Perimede. Gr: peri "around" + medos "plans" or "schemes," thus "surrounding by schemes." One Perimede was the mother of Europa,

another was a beautiful Witch who features in a poem by the third-century BCE poet Zheocritus. It describes Perimede calling on the moon and casting a spell to win back her love. This poem was influential in ancient times, and Perimede became a synonym for a Witch—even leading to an adjective perimedeus "pertaining to the sorceress Perimede" and "magical." 19th C.

Perina Y The name of the little girl in Italo Calvino's 1954 version of *The Little Girl Sold with the Pears*, chosen deliberately for its resemblance to Italo Calvino's "pear tree." Perina was already in use in Italy at the time as a variant of Pierina < PETER. Used in the ESW ever since.

Perion c~ A character in the popular Renaissance knighterrant tale *Amadis of Gaul*. The hero is the love-child of the star-crossed lovers Perion of Gaul and Elisena of England. 19th C.

Periwinkle Y e English name of a number of plants, in particular, the greater periwinkle (*Vinca major*) and the lesser periwinkle (*Vinca minor*). The plants are known for their pale indigo flowers and "periwinkle" is often used as a color. ME: parwynke < Late L: pervinca < L: vicapervica. A common country name is joy-on-the-ground. Another old name for it was sorcerer's violet, as it was considered a favorite ingredient of the "wise folk" in charms and love philters, and was valued for its ability to exorcise evil spirits. It is still used by Witches in love potions and for protection. Ruled by Venus and Water, it was also used in the past in garlands—in 1306 Simon Fraser, ally of William Wallace, was led to his execution with a garland of periwinkles on his head. In herbal medicine, it used to be used to ease cramps and stop bleeding, while poultices were used to soothe inflammatory skin ailments. Even today, *Vinca major* is used for hemorrhages and digestive complaints. Late 20th C.

Perllys 'y Welsh: perllys "parsley."

Perpetua y Latin: perpetuus "continuous" and "perpetual." The name of a third-century saint. Late 16th C.

Perry Gg Y Perry is often treated as just a pet-form of Peregrine or Percival. However, Perry's use as a given name in its own right—which dates

to the sixteenth century-also represents the transferred use of the surname. OF: *pirige* "pear tree"-used of someone who dwelt by or near a peartree. The word "perry" itself is in fact an obsolete word meaning "pear-tree," as well as a drink made from pear-juice. Another obsolete meaning of "perry"-largely only found in poetry-is "precious stone" < OF: *perre* "stone." It was also used to mean "jewel" and "pearl." Perry has been used for girls since the late nineteenth century. Bearers: Perry Mason, the lawyer-cum-detective hero who featured in a vast number of novels by Erle Stanley Gardner between 1933 and 1973.

Persephone ♀ The daughter of Demeter by Zeus. Persephone's abduction by Hades is a familiar tale. It led to Demeter neglecting all growing things-and so everything withered and died, and winter came. Zeus managed to persuade Hades to give her back; Hades agreed on the proviso that Persephone had eaten nothing while in the Underworld. Unfortunately, she had eaten six pomegranate seeds; thus, for six months of the year, Persephone reigns as Queen of the Underworld, returning to the Upper World for the rest of the year. But there is a great deal more to Persephone-a central figure of the famous Eleusinian mysteries. As a Maiden Goddess, she is Kore, and strongly associated with her mother. In the ancient world, however, this function was secondary, and she was principally viewed as the dread Goddess of the Underworld. In some versions, her mother isn't named as Demeter at all, but Styx, and it is Persephone who rules the spirits of the dead, not Hades. As such, she was often invoked in ancient curses. To many today, these two aspects appear contradictory, but it makes sense to Pagans, who are in tune with the rhythm of the Earth, aware of the ever turning cycle of life and death. Seeds are buried in the ground with all the appearance of death, from which life springs forth, fresh and green. Who else should be responsible for this miracle than the Goddess who dwells beneath the Earth? Gr: *pertho* "to destroy" + *phonos* "slaughter" or "slayer"-usually interpreted as "destroying slayer." Little wonder that in the ancient world her name was considered ill-omened, and she usually went by the far less fearful Kore. Late 19th C.

Perseus ♂ The son of Zeus by Danae, who was impregnated by Zeus in a shower of gold. In the classic way of Greek myths, Danae's father had received a prophecy that he would die at the hand of his daughter's child, so

when Perseus was born, he put the two of them into a box, and cast them into the sea. They were rescued; Perseus killed the Medusa and rescued Andromeda, and went on to accidentally kill his grandfather with a discus. After his own death he was placed in the sky as the constellation Perseus, along with Andromeda and her parents. Gr: pertho "to destroy" perhaps an allusion to his destruction of the Medusa, Cetus-or his grandfather. 17th C.

Perseverance Y One of the Puritan "virtue" names which came in at the end of the sixteenth century. L: perseverantia "persistence" and "steadfastness."

Persia ? The old name for Iran. It was first used by the Ancient Greeks, deriving from the Avestan Parsa-the name of the people ruled by Cyrus the Great before he acquired his empire. This ancient tribal name survives in the name of the modern province of Fars, Farsi (the name of the language), and Parsee-the name given to Zoroastrians in India. Early 19th C.

Persicaria 2 Botanical name for bistort. It was originally the Latin name for the redshank < persicum "peach"-referring to the resemblance of the plant's leaves to those of a peach tree.

Persimmon c~ 2 The name of an edible fruit and its tree from North America. It comes from a Powhatan word meaning "dry fruit." Ruled by Venus and Water, it is used in magic for luck. Late 19th C.

Persis y Greek: Persis "Persian (girl)." The name of a character in the New Testament. 16th C.

Perun c? A Slavic God, and the principal Slavic male deity. He shares considerable similarities with Thor and Taranis, being a God of thunder, and is also associated with oak trees. His name still means "thunderbolt" in Ukrainian, although it acquired this meaning through association with the God, as his name probably derives from PIE: *perk-u- "oak." Perun is also a Romani boy's name of uncertain origin-it might well be an adoption of the Slavic Perun.

Perusina 2 Epithet of Juno, deriving from the name of the Etruscan city of Perusia-modern Perugia-where she had a temple.

Pet ? Scots Gaelic: peata "tame animal." The word "pet" evolved in Scotland and the North of England, being first used of a lamb raised by hand. By the early eighteenth century, it had started to be applied to animals kept for companionship across the British Isles. Its use for people began in the sixteenth century, when it was applied to spoilt children; over time it largely lost this association, however, and by the eighteenth was being used as a term of endearment, as it is mostly still used today. Used as a given name from the nineteenth century-possibly inspired by the character of Minnie "Pet" Meagles in Dickens's *Little Dorrit* (1855-57).

Peta Y Modern English feminine form of PETER. Early 20th C.

Petal Y Adoption of the word "petal" < Late L: petalum "petal" < Gr: petalon "leaf" < petannumi "to spread out." Its use as a term of endearment is quite modern, dating to the latter twentieth century. As a given name, Petal is found from the early twentieth century. British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver named his third daughter Petal Blossom Rainbow in 2009.

Peter e Greek: Petra "a rock." Peter was used to translate the Aramaic Cephas of the same meaning-said to have been given by Jesus to his disciple, whose original name was Simon bar Jonah. Often called Simon Peter, he is regarded as Jesus's "right-hand man" and went on to become the first pope-of sorts-and the keeper of the keys of Heaven. He was one of the most popular medieval saints, and Peter was one of the most popular medieval names, giving rise to all manner of surnames such as Peters, Pierce, Pearson, Perrin, Perkins, Parkinson, and Parrot. The commonest form in the Middle Ages was PIERS. Var: Petur, Petyr (hist); Perot, Perkin, Perrin (hist. dim). Ar: Butrus, Faroese: Paetur, It Ga, Sc Ga: Peadar, Sc Ga: Peadair, Manx: Peddyr, Cornish, Dan: Peder, W: Pedr, Port, Sp: Pedro, Dan: Peer; Pelle (dim), Est: Peeter, Breton, Dan, Nor: Per, Cat: Pere, Mac, Serb: Petar, Dut, Get, Scand, Slk, Slv: Peter, Hun: Peter; Petya, Peti (dim), Maori: Petera, Cz: Petr, Lith: Petras, Gr: Petros, Rom: Petru, Icelandic: Petur, It Ga: Piaras, It: Pietro, Piero, Fr: Pierre, Fin: Pietari, Petri, Petteri; Pekka (dim), Afrikaans: Pieter, Maltese: Pietru, Pol: Piotr, Piotrus, Ru: Pyotr; Petya (dim). Bearers: Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), the Dutch artist; Peter Sellers (1925-80), the British actor; Peter Jackson (b. 1961), the New Zealand film director; Peter Pan, eponymous hero and Nature sprite of

J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan (1904); Peter Pevensie, one of the principal characters in C.S. Lewis's The Chronicles of Narnia.

Petra 2 Greek: Petra "rock." Adopted in the late nineteenth century as a feminine version of Peter. The ancient city of Petra, rediscovered in 1812, which was described by the poet John William Burgon as "a rose-red city, half as old as time," may also have played a part. Var: Petrina.

Petrarch o~ English form of Italian Petrarca, the surname of the medieval poet and writer Francesco Petrarch (1304-74), who is often called the "Father of Humanism." His unrequited love for the Laura of his poems- believed to be Laura de Noves, wife of Count Hugues de Sade-is famous. 19th C.

Petrel Y cc The name of a number of sea birds. The British storm or stormy petrel is only a small bird, about the size of a sparrow, but prepared to battle the fiercest Atlantic weather-hence its name. Also known as the Witch or the waterwitch, it has the astonishing ability to hover with its feet just touching the water while it picks food off the surface of the sea, given it the appearance of trying to walk on water. Petrel is probably diminutive of Peter, probably an allusion to the fact St. Peter was said to have once attempted to walk on water, succeeding for a few moments only. Mariners used to believe they were the restless spirits of captains who had ill-treated their crews, or the souls of damned sailors, and sightings of them were said to portend trouble. The bird is also called Mother Carey's chickens, though it is uncertain who Mother Carey is. According to some, she was a Witch, to others, it is a corruption of mater cara "dear mother," usually thought to refer to the Virgin Mary, but quite possibly having older Pagan associations of the Mother Goddess. Late 19th C.

Petroc c~ Petroc Baladrddellt "Splintered Spear," son of Clemen, was a semi-legendary seventh-century king of Dumnonia-i.e. Devon-recorded in the Welsh Triads as one of the "Tree Just Knights" of Britain. However, the most famous bearer of the name is the Cornish saint, said to have been Welsh by birth. The Welsh form is Pedrog, which hints at it being a diminutive form of PETER. Intriguingly, Petroc is usually depicted with a stag. The centre of his cult was Padstow (named after him), but there are dedications across Cornwall, Devon, South Wales, and Brittany. Although

it seems likely that Petroc was a historical figure, he has certainly acquired plenty myths and certain Pagan attributes. He was said to have spent time in India and returned accompanied by a wolf. He also defeated a mighty serpent, used by King Teudar of Penwith to devour his enemies. Late 20th C. Var: Petrock.

Petronia Y Feminine form of PETRONIUS. It is borne by a character in Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles (1976-2003). It is also the name of a genus of sparrows.

Petronilla Y Diminutive feminine form of PETRONIUS. In the late fourth century, (after Christianity had become the state religion) an old tomb-probably dating to the late first or early second century-came to people's attention in the catacombs of Rome, of a Roman girl called Petronilla. She was declared a daughter of St. Peter. Although nothing was known about the girl's life (except she had been a "most sweet daughter")-let alone her religious affiliation (contrary to popular belief, the catacombs were not exclusively Christian)-she was made a saint and venerated accordingly, swiftly becoming very popular. Although the original sarcophagus is now lost, it apparently featured a dolphin; as such St. Petronilla became the patron saint of dolphins-and the dauphins of France. Petronilla-often in the variant form Petronella-was an extremely common girl's name in the Middle Ages, and was contracted to Petronel, Parnel, Peronel, and Pernel. From as early as the fourteenth century, it was used as a generic term for a priest's concubine. This started to erode its use, and it was virtually killed off by the Reformation, but it survived here and there in country use, especially in Cornwall. Sw: Pernilla; Pella (dim); Dan, Nor: Pernille, Fr: Petronille. Bearers: Petronella de Meath (d. 1324), the first woman executed for Witchcraft in Ireland; she was burnt at the stake.

Petronius a' A Roman gens. L: Petra "rock" and "crag." There is a saint of the name, but in the ESW use has generally been in honor of Gaius Petronius Arbiter (c. 27-66 CE), the "arbiter" of fashion at the court of Nero, often credited with being the author of the first-century CE Roman novel, *The Satyricon*. 16th C. It: Petronio.

Petroseline 2 An archaic name for parsley < L: petroselinum "parsley."

Petruchio c~ The hero of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Shakespeare almost certainly took it from Petruccio Ubaldini-an Italian calligraphist and illuminator who was working in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Petula 2 The use of Petula from the mid-twentieth century is solely down to the British singer Petula Clark (b. 1932), who bore the name from childhood-although she was registered as simply Sally Clark.'The origin is uncertain; her father is said to have joked it was a combination of the names of two old girlfriends, Pet and Ulla. In reality, it seems more likely to be a fanciful elaboration of PETAL.

Petunia Y The name of a genus of flowering plant. MF: petun-the tobacco plant < Guarani: pety-or Tupi: petama. Petunia was coined in the early nineteenth century, and used as a name since the late nineteenth century. Bearers: Petunia Dursley, a character in the Harry Potter series.

Pevensey c~ 2 English surname, from Pevensey, East Sussex. It is usually explained as meaning "Pefen's river"-Pefen being understood to be an Old English personal name. It may, however, not be a name at all, and could simply be from OE: *pyfe* "to blow."The area is flat-it is known for the Pevensey Levels-and being by the sea, prone to being pretty windy. A further, perhaps more intriguing option, if Pefen indeed represents a name, would be to suggest it is not Anglo-Saxon as usually assumed, but a survival of a Celtic name, possibly the name of a Celtic deity or hero-perhaps PABO or PEIBIO. 19th C. Var: Pevensie. Bearers: Pevensie is the surname of Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy in C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*.

Pewter e 2 A silvery-grey alloy of tin. Originally, it was combined with lead, but is usually now made with antimony and copper. In the past, it was much used for plates, tankards, and goblets, etc., as a more affordable alternative to silver.'The surname Pewter derives from the OF: *peautrier* "pewterer"- i.e. a maker of pewter items. 19th C.

Peyton cc Y English surname, deriving from one of the two English villages called Peyton. One is in Suffolk, and the other Essex, and they share the same etymology as PAXTON. First used in the eighteenth

century, it started to be used more for girls in the 1990s; the year that Peyton leapt into the name charts was the same year as the film *The Hand that Rocks the Cradle* (1992), featuring the psychotic character Peyton Flanders. Var: Payton. Bearers: Peyton Loftis, the central female character in William Styron's novel *Lie Down in Darkness* (1951); Peyton Westlake, the hero of the 1990 film *Darkman*.

Phaedra 2 In Greek mythology, the name of a daughter of King Minos, sister of Ariadne, and wife of Theseus. She is one of the classic examples of a mortal being treated purely as a chess-piece by the Gods. In order to punish Theseus's son Hippolytus for refusing to acknowledge her, Aphrodite exacted revenge on him by making Phaedra fall passionately in love with him. Spurned by him, she killed herself, but left a note saying that Hippolytus had raped her. This caused Theseus to curse his son, leading to his death. Gr: phaidros "bright" and "beaming"; when used of water, it had the sense of "sparkling." Mid-20th C.

Phaethon c~ The name of more than one character in Greek mythology, most notably, the son of the sun God Helios by Clymene, famous for crashing his father's sunchariot and getting killed in the process. Another Phaethon is the son of the Goddess Eos, who became the guardian of the shrine of Aphrodite and ancestor of Adonis. Gr: phaethon "shining" and "radiant."

Phanes cc A primeval God of procreation, who is mostly worshipped within Orphism. He is often equated with Eros and Mithras, and is depicted emerging from a cosmic egg entwined with a serpent. Gr: phaino "to bring light" and "to make clear." Late 19th C.

Phaneth y c? Khmer name phaenet "sugar cane juice."

Phaniel c? Phaniel is the name of a minor character in the New Testament and also the name of an archangel, sometimes identified with Uriel, although in some texts the two are considered distinct entities. Heb: "face of (a) God." 17th C.

Pharaildis ? Old German name Para "journey" + hildi "battle." Pharaildis is the usual form used for the name of a seventh-/eighth-century saint

venerated in what is now Belgium and Holland (her Dutch name is Veerle). In around 1100 CE, Pharaïdis also became cited as the name of one of the Goddesses of the Witches-possibly due to its similarity to "Fran Holde."
Var: Farahild, Farahilda, Farilda, Pharahild, Pharahilda.

Pharaoh c~ The title of kings of Egypt, deriving through the Latin and Greek from Egyptian: pr "house" + aA "big"- i.e. "palace." The English surname is a variant of Ferrer; OF: ferreor "iron-worker" or "smith." This is cognate with the Catalan Ferrer, used in Spain in honor of St. Vincent Ferrer (c. 1350-1419). 17th C.

Pharez c~ Biblical name. Heb: parets "breach." 16th C. Var: Phares.

Phelan g Nineteenth-century adoption of the Irish surname deriving from O Faolain "son of FAOLAN." It is now often treated as Faolan's Anglicized form.

Pherousa 2 One of the Nereids. Gr: pherousa "carrying" < Gr: phero "to carry." With her sister Dynamene, she was associated with ocean swells.
Var: Pherusa.

Phil 2 Short form of any of the names beginning with Phil-, in particular PHILIP, PHILIPPA, and PHYLLIS. It is also sometimes used as a short form of FELICITY.

Phila Y e Zulu and Ndebele: phila "be healthy!" and "live!" Related is Uphila "she (or he) is healthy" or "she (or he) is alive."

Philadelphia Y Today, the name Philadelphia has two powerful associations in most people's minds; the name of the American city, famed for the "Liberty Bell"-and the cream cheese. The original Philadelphia was a city in Asia Minor, which was founded in the second century BCE, either by Attalus Philadelphus, King of Pergamus, or his brother. It was the affection for his brother which earned Attalus the Greek epithet Philadelphus "brotherly love." The city later gets a mention or two in the New Testament, and this is no doubt partly why Penn chose it for the name of the city he founded in Pennsylvania in 1682. He was also said to have chosen the name because he hoped it would be a city of religious tolerance. By that

time, Philadelphia had already been in use as a girl's name for at least a century. Bearers: Hon. Philadelphia Wharton (d. 1703), who was painted as a little girl in the 1630s by Sir Anthony Van Dyck. She was named after her grandmother, Lady Philadelphia Carey (d. 1655).

Philander cc Greek: philandros "loving men," used in ancient times of a woman's love for her husband. In Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, Filandro is the name of a youth ruined through his lust for Gabrina. As Philander, it occurs in the Jacobean play *The Laws of Candy* (c. 1623). It was early linked with Phyllis; such as in the 1682 ballad "'The faithful Lovers Downfal: or, The Death of Fair Phillis Who Killed her self for loss of her Philander.'" In its early use, "philander" meant simply "lover" or "male sweetheart." By the late eighteenth century, however, it had acquired the meaning of "philanderer," and the verb "to philander" had also developed. 18th C. In the nineteenth century, it is sometimes found in use as a girl's name. Fem: Philandra.

Phileas c' Most people assume that Phileas was either a deliberate or accidental misspelling of Phineas by Jules Verne for his hero of *Around the World in 80 Days* (1873). However, Phileas is actually a name in its own right, being a hypocoristic form of a Greek name beginning with Phil-. St. Phileas was an early third-century bishop of the Egyptian city of Thmuis, and is responsible for the name's use in more recent times. In the ESW, it was used from as early as the late seventeenth century, largely amongst Roman Catholics, but it has seen most use in France and Quebec. Why Verne chose it for his English hero is unknown.

Philemon cc Greek: philema "kiss." Philemon was a fairly common name in Ancient Greece. It was the name of a fourth-/third-century BCE poet and playwright, and features in mythology in the tale of Baucis and Philemon (see Baucis). It also occurs in the New Testament. 16th C.

Philia 2 Greek: philia "love"-specifically the platonic love of friendship. 17th C.

Philibert Gi The name of a seventh-century saint who founded an abbey at Jumieges in Normandy, and is also known as Filibert. OG: Filuberht-filu-

"much" + berht. Introduced into Britain in the Norman French forms Filbert, Fulbert, and Philbert.

Philip e Standard English form of Philippos-a name common in the ancient world. Gr: philos "friend" + hippos "horse." Names containing the word "horse" in Ancient Greece tended to be borne by the aristocracy-presumably because they were the ones who could afford to own horses-and the most famous bearer is Philip II of Macedon (382-336 BCE), the father of Alexander the Great. There are also two biblical St. Philips-the Apostle and the Evangelist-accounting for its popularity during the Middle Ages, giving rise to a number of surnames such as Phillips, Phelips, Philpots, and Philcox. It was popular enough in its day for Philip-and a short form Phip-to become a country name for the dunnoek-a common small brown bird. Var: Phelippe, Phelyp, Phylp (hist); Phillip. Dim: PHIL, PIP. Port, Sp: Felipe, Bul, Cz, Dut, Pol, Nor, Sw: Filip, It: Filippo, Ger: Philipp, Fr: Philippe, Fin: Vilppu. Bearers: six kings of France, who reigned between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries; four kings of Spain, reigning between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries-including King Philip II (1527-98), husband of Queen Mary I and suitor of Queen Elizabeth I, who sent the Armada against England in 1588; Sir Philip Sidney (1554-86), the poet; Philip Pullman (b. 1946), the English novelist; Philip Heselton (b. 1946), the Wiccan author; Philip Carr-Gomm (b. 1952), Chosen Chief of the Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids; Philip Shallcrass (b. 1953)-also known by his Druid name Greywolf-Chief of the British Druid Order; Philip "Pip" Pirrip, the hero of Charles Dickens's Great Expectations (1860-61).

Philippa Y Usual feminine form of PHILIP in the ESW. There was a third-century saint of the name, and it was in use in the Middle Ages, but in most cases, women whose names appear as Philippa in the Latin records were actually called Philip; Philippa of Hainault (1314-69), the Queen of King Edward III, is often called Phelip, Philippe, and Philip in records made in English. Dim: PIPPA, PHIL. Port, Sp: Felipa, Cz, Ru: Filipa. Bearers: Philippa Fawcett (1868- 1948), the English mathematician, a daughter of the suffragist Millicent Fawcett; Philippa Gregory (b. 1954), the British historical novelist.

Philippina 2 A feminine form of PHILIP, largely used in Europe. It: Filippina, Fr: Philippine. See also Philopena.

Philius a' Epithet of Zeus. Gr: philios "friendly." 19th C.

Philo c Anglicized form of Philon < Gr: philos "friend." Borne by a number of prominent figures of Antiquity, such as the first-century CE Greco-Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria. 17th C.

Philomel Y A poetic word for the nightingale, often used in pastoral poetry. L: PHILOMELA. 19th C.

Philomela Y The name of one of the daughters of Pandion. Her brother-in-law Tereus fell in love with her, and tricked her into thinking her sister Procne-his wife-was dead so that he could have his wicked way with her. When she found out the truth, he cut out her tongue so that she couldn't tell anyone what had happened. Philomela wove the tale in a tapestry for her sister to read, and together they had their vengeance by killing Tereus's son and serving the child up to his father in a pie. When Tereus learnt what they had done, he pursued them with a sword-but before he could kill them, Zeus turned Philomela into a nightingale, and Procne into a swallow. Tereus himself was turned into a hoopoe. Gr: philomela "nightingale" < philos "friend" and "lover" + melon "apple"-i.e. "lover of apples." It was popular with pastoral poets in the seventeenth century and occurs as a genuine name from the same date.

Philomena ? There was an obscure saint called Philomena, who had been largely forgotten until a tomb was found in Rome in 1802. This revived her veneration-and also the fortunes of the name. Gr: philoumena "beloved.- The use of Philomena in the Middle Ages, however, was largely as a variant of PHILOMELA; filomena was used in Spanish and Italian medieval poetry to mean "nightingale." The standard version in English at the time was "phiomene"-also spelled "phylomene"-which features in sixteenth-century English poetry. It, Sp: Filomena, Fr: Philomene.

Philopena 2 In the nineteenth century, Philopena was the name given to a nut with two kernels, specifically an almond. It featured in a game, which was in vogue for a time during that century; if two people shared a

philopena, the first person to exclaim "philopena!" when they next met earned a small gift from the other. The word's Greek veneer is deceptive; it is generally thought to derive from Vielliebchen, the German name for the game, which means "darling" or "sweetheart." This was remodeled to give the semblance of an etymology from Gr: philos "friend" + L: poena "punishment." The word had a number of variant spellings, including PHILIPPINA. 19th C.

Philophrosyne Y Greek: philophrosune "friendliness" and "kindliness." Philophrosyne is regarded as the personification of these qualities. She and her sisters-Eucleia, Euthenia, and Eupheme-are regarded as the "Younger Charites" (Graces).

Philter, Philtre Y c3' Greek: philtron "philter" < philo "to love." The making of love philters is one of the most popular images of Witchcraft. "Philter" is the American spelling, and "philtre" the British.

Philyra ? The name of an Oceanid, the mother of Cheiron, the half-man, half-horse centaur. He was fathered by Cronos, who lay with Philyra as a stallion. Philyra, ashamed at what she perceived was the monster she had given birth to, asked Cronos's son Zeus to turn her into a linden tree. Gr: philura "linden tree."

Phineas C? Phineas has two distinct sources: Greek mythology and the Bible. In Greek mythology, it is borne by more than one character. The most notable is a king of Thrace, who was a son of Zeus or Poseidon, and had the gift of prophecy. For revealing too much of the plans of the Gods, he was blinded and left on an island where the Harpies ate all his food, but Jason and the Argonauts came to his aid, sending the Boreads to chase off the Harpies, after which he was left in peace. The meaning of this Phineas is unknown; that it is clearly linked to the name of the city of Phinea on the Bosphorus is about all that can be said. Var: Phineus. The origins of the biblical Phineas aren't entirely clear either. Some claim the name is from Heb: peh "mouth" + nhsh "serpent" or "oracle." However its roots are probably Egyptian, deriving from pA "the" + nHsj "Nubian." Var: Phinehas. Yid: Pinchas. 16th C.

Phlox Y c~ Greek: phlox "flame." In Ancient Greece, it was used for a type of wallflower, and in Rome for an unidentified flame-colored flower. Since the eighteenth century, it has been used of the plant which now bears its name, which is native to North America. In the language of flowers, it symbolizes agreement and sweet dreams. 20th C.

Phoebe 2 Greek: phoibos "bright" and "radiant." Phoebe was the name of a Titaness-one of the daughters of Uranus and Ge. It was not uncommon in the ancient world, and stumbled into the New Testament. 16th C. Var: Phebe (hist). Bearers: Phoebe Buffay, a character in the American sitcom Friends (1994-2004); Phoebe Halliwell, a Witch in the American drama Charmed (1998-2006). A moon of Saturn, discovered in 1899, was named Phoebe.

Phoebus c? Greek: phoibos "bright" and "radiant." A principal epithet of the God Apollo, emphasizing his sphere of influence over the sun. Bearers: Captain Phoebus de Chateaupers, a character in Victor Hugo's Notre Dame de Paris (1831). 17th C.

Phoenix Y The name of Phoenicia in ancient times. Deriving from PHOENIX, this is an alternative name for Polaris.

Phoenix c? Y For most people today, Phoenix is associated only with the legendary bird, which dies consumed in flames only to be born again from the ashes-the ultimate symbol of death and resurrection.'The Greeks identified it with the Egyptian bnw-a type of sacred heron closely associated with the rising sun and the sun God Ra.'The word's origin is very unclear. It may be from the Egyptian, with its Greek form heavily influenced by the native Gr: phoinix "dark red" < phoinos "blood-red," or it may be purely Greek, or it may be from another source entirely-possibly Semitic. Pliny said it was named after the date palm, the Latin and Greek name of which was phoenix (even today Phoenix is the scientific name of the date palm). This probably got its name, however, from another Ancient Greek definition of phoin ix-"Phoenician", i.e. "of Phoenicia." Phoenicia's origins are unfortunately also uncertain. It may derive from the Greek adjective too. Alternatively, it may be from a Semitic name for madder, or even an Egyptian word meaning "carpentering," since Phoenicia was also noted in ancient times for the quality of its timber, which was exported to

Egypt from the earliest times.'There is actually more than one mythical figure called Phoenix, including a son of King Agenor of Tyre or Sidon, whom the Greeks said was the source of Phoenicia's name. Needless to say, this is the least likely option. 16th C. Var: Phenix; Phoenicia Y. Fennix is a Romani boy's name.

Phokas e Greek: phoke "seal." It was borne by a fourth-century saint and a number of important figures in the Byzantine Empire. Var: Phocas. Ru: Foka.

Phorcys c' A primordial sea God, said by Hesiod to be a son of Pontus and Gaia, though in the Orphic hymns, he, Cronus, and Rhea are said to be oldest children of Oceanus and Tethys. Like Ceto, he fathered many of the monsters of Greek myth, including the Gorgons, the Echidna, and the Graeae. His name is probably pre-Greek.

Photine Y Greek: phos "light." A first-century saint very popular in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Var: Photina.

Photis Y The name of a would-be Witch in Lucius Apuleius's second-century novel Golden Ass. Having watched her mistress transform into a bird, she attempts to help the protagonist Lucius transform into a bird also-but they succeed only in turning him into an donkey. Oops. Gr: phos "light."

Phrixus c The son of Athamas. When about to be sacrificed with his sister Helle, a ram with a golden fleece appeared and carried the two children off. On landing in Colchis, Phrixus sacrificed the ram in thanks, and presented the golden fleece to King Aeetes, who hung it on a dragon-guarded tree. Gr: phrisso "to bristle" and "to shudder"; the related phrix meant "ripple."

Phthia 2 Greek: Phthios "a Phthian," i.e. an inhabitant of the region of Phthia in Thessaly, homeland of Achilles. The ultimate etymology of this is unknown and almost certainly pre-Greek. Phthia was a name borne by more than one historical woman of Epirus, such as the fourth-century BCE mother of Pyrrhus, and a third-century princess. 20th C.

Phyllida Y Elaborated form of PHYLLIS. The accusative case of Phyllis in Greek is phyllida, and this was probably the inspiration. "Phyllida and Corydon" (1591) is a pastoral poem by Nicholas Breton. The variant Phillida is also used, appearing in Colley Cibber's Damon and Phillida (1729). Bearers: Phyllida Law (b. 1932), the Scottish actress.

Phyllis Y In Greek myth, Phyllis was the daughter of a king of Thrace. She married either Acamas or his brother Demophon-both sons of Theseus by Phaedra-when they were on their way home from the Trojan War. After the wedding, the groom sailed away, promising to return. Phyllis gave him a box which she said contained a treasure of the Goddess Rhea, which he should only open if he had decided not to come back after all. Needless to say, he didn't return; Phyllis killed herself, and was either transformed into an almond tree, or the tree grew on her grave. Meanwhile, her neglectful husband eventually opened the box; the contents so terrified him that he leapt on his horse and rode away, falling off and breaking his neck. In some versions, however, he does return to Thrace to find Phyllis dead; full of remorse, he embraces the tree-which flowered at his embrace. Gr: phyllon "leaf." Phyllis itself actually meant "salad," and was closely related to phyllas, meaning "heap of leaves" and "bed of leaves." Phyllis was used by Roman poets, and became a favorite with the English pastoral poets of the seventeenth century. It was in that century that it was first used as a given name also, though it was much confused with Felicia, and it is difficult to tell in early records which name is intended. Var: Phillis. Dim: PHIL, Fizz. Bearers: Phyllis Waterbury, one of the children in Edith Nesbit's Railway Children (1906).

Physis ? Greek: phusis "nature." Although not revered in the classical pantheon, Physis came to be regarded as a Goddess within Orphism and was revered among Pagans in the latter centuries of the Roman Empire.

Phytalmius c' Epithet of Poseidon. Gr: phutalmios "plantnurturing" and "nourishing"-a reference to his aspect as a God of water, and thus plant-nurturing rivers and rain.

Phyxius cc Greek: pheugo "to flee." Phyxius is a title of Zeus as protector of fugitives-although sometimes in ancient times, Phyxius was regarded as a God in his own right.

Nay Feminine form of PIUS. Long used in Italy, it came into use in the ESW in the twentieth century. It is sometimes treated as being one and the same as the abstract concept of PIETY, as evidenced by Torsten Fridh's bronze statue Pia (1965).

Pierce c~ English surname, deriving from PETER through the Old French form PIERES. Used since at least the seventeenth century, it has been much confused with PIERES, and is often treated as simply a variant spelling-which to some extent, it is. Bearers: Pierce Brosnan (b. 1953), the Irish actor and environmentalist.

Pieris Y A Roman poetic name for a Muse, from Pierus, the name of a mythical King of Emathia or Macedon, understood to be the eponymous founder of the region of Pieria. He was credited with introducing the worship of the Muses to Greece, and named his nine daughters after them. By one of the Muses, he was said to have had a son-Hyacinth, and another son, Oeagrus, was sometimes said to be the father of Orpheus by another. Possibly from Gr: pion "fat"-used of land to mean "rich" and "fertile."

Pierrette 2 French feminine form of PETER, which has been used in the ESW in the twentieth century. Var: Pierette, Perrine.

Piers e A medieval variant of PETER, deriving from an Old French form of the name. The fourteenth-century poem "Piers Plowman" by William Langland is one of the first great works of English literature. Revived late 19th C. Bearers: Piers Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall (c. 1284-1312)-the close friend and possibly the lover of King Edward II. Jr Ga: Feoras, W: Pirs.

Piety Y Piety appears to have been a relatively late addition to the Puritan virtue names, appearing only towards the end of the seventeenth century. L: pietas "piety." Although now strongly associated with Christianity, the Latin word originally meant dutifulness to the Pagan Gods, to a person's country, and to their family (both living members and ancestors). These three things were considered essential for a Roman man who aspired to be regarded as virtus-the ultimate Roman virtue; in essence, virtue itself. The Roman Goddess Pietas was the personification of this, and she is often depicted on the reverse side of Roman coins issued by women of the Imperial household.

Pilar 2 Spanish name, deriving from the title of the Virgin Mary, Nuestra Senora del Pilar "Our Lady of the Pillar." It originated in a legend that the Virgin appeared on a column to St. James the Greater at Zaragoza in the first century CE. Used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century.

Pilate cc Usual English form of Latin Pilatus "armed with a javelin" < pila "javelin." It is pretty much synonymous with Pontius Pilate (see Pontius), who is the source of the surname Pilot, though the noun "pilot" derives ultimately from either Gr: pedon "oar," or plates "sailor." 18th C.

Pilgrim G~ 2 The word "pilgrim" derives from the same sources as PEREGRINE. It was originally used of anyone who traveled or wandered from place to place, coming to be used of those undertaking a journey to visit a sacred place as an act of devotion. The act of making a pilgrimage is strongly associated in the West with Christianity, but it is by no means unique to that religion. In Islam, making a pilgrimage to Mecca even has a name-hadj-and undertaking a pilgrimage is an important religious act in many Eastern religions also. In Pagan Greece and Rome, pilgrimages were frequently undertaken to religious sites, especially to oracular centers. Pilgrim is also a surname, from the same source. 16th C.

Pimon y Thai name phimon "pretty" and "beautiful."

Pimpernel 2 A small red wild flower, made famous by Baroness Orczy in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (1905). AngloNorman: pimpernels < L: PIPINELLA. On Dartmoor, pimpernels are called the shepherd's sundial, because they open their flowers about eight o'clock and close them mid-afternoon. If they don't open in the morning, rain is on the way. An old couplet hints at the plant's worth: "no ear hath heard, no tongue can tell/the virtues of the Pimpernell." In the past, it was used to charm away warts by sewing nine flowers up in a silk bag with nine dandelion leaves. This was worn around the neck, and a rhyme recited holding the bag over the warts morning and night. Ruled by Mercury and Air, the pimpernel is still used for protection in modern magic, particularly against illness, and wearing a pimpernel is said to guard against deception.

Pinar y Turkish name Pinar "the spring."

Pindar c~ Pindar (c. 522-443 BCE) was an important and influential Greek lyric poet. The origin of his name is not known; it may possibly be connected with the name of Mount Pindus, which is quite possibly pre-Greek in origin. 16th C.

Pine c' 2 Pine and fir are pretty much synonymous; "pine" comes from L: pinus "pine." In the Ogham, the pine's name is Ailm, and the pine or fir is strongly associated with farsightedness, foresight, and objectivity-probably due to its loftiness. The tree features prominently in mythology; a pine cone is a phallic symbol; it was into a pine tree that Atys was transformed, and the tree is also sacred to Artemis. Ancient Druids built bonfires of pine and yew at the Winter Solstice to aid the sun's rebirth. The light of the sun was believed to be preserved in all evergreens during the dark days of winter, and for this reason, pines were decorated with lights and shiny objects to help preserve the divine light they cherished within-later becoming appropriated by Christians and turned into Christmas trees. Ruled by Mars and Air, pine is used in magic to promote fertility and for protection. As a name, it is found for both males and females from the nineteenth century, but almost always as a middle name, suggesting its use has mostly been an adoption of the surname, which also means "pine." Var: Pyne.

Pink Y e Use of Pink as a given name in the early and mid-nineteenth century probably represents the use of the surname-OE: pinca "chaffinch." At the end of the nineteenth century, its use for girls represents the adoption of the name of the flower (also called a carnation). Pinks were introduced from Holland in the sixteenth century; how they acquired their name isn't entirely clear, but the most likely option is a derivation from the verb "pink" meaning "to cut"-perhaps a reference to the zig-zag edge of the petals. Scissors which cut this pattern are still called "pinking shears." Pinks-by virtue of often being pink-gave their name to the color in the seventeenth century.

Pinkie Y Pinkie originated in Scotland as an adjective meaning "small," and later a noun meaning "little finger." It was carried to America by Scottish settlers, and was adopted as a given name in the nineteenth century. Var: Pinky. Pinkie is the popular name of the portrait of Sarah

Goodin Barrett Moulton (1783-95), aunt of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, by Thomas Lawrence; Pinkie was her nickname.

Pinnock C~ A Cornish saint, probably from Cornish pen "head" or "chief" + dim. suffix -oc. The surname Pinnock is also Cornish, taken from a Cornish name for the hedgesparrow. It is suggested that the bird's name arose from its cry, with the addition of ME: dim. suffix -ock. 19th C.

Pip c~ Y Usually treated as a short form of PHILIP largely on account of its use in Dickens's *Great Expectations* (1860-61) and PHILIPPA. The word "pip" in the sense of a seed is quite a late development, first noted in the eighteenth century, representing a transferred use of an old word for "apple." "The pips of apples, like many other seeds, are symbolic of the cycle of life and of inert potential. Used independently since the early twentieth century.

Piper 2 ' English surname. OE: pipere "pipe player." The pipes in the ancient world were closely associated with the God Pan. Piper is also the Latin word for pepper. Bearers: Piper Laurie (b. 1932), the American actress, whose real name is Rosetta Jacobs; Piper Halliwell, a Witch in the American drama *Charmed* (1998-2006).

Pipinella Y Late Latin name for the burnier saxifrage. The slightly earlier form was pimpinella.

Pipit 2 A genus of small, usually ground-nesting birds. The name derives from the sound it makes. 20th C. Var: Pippet, Pippit.

Pippa ? Originally a short form of PHILIPPA. Robert Browning's Pippa Passes (1841) made the name familiar. 19th C. Var: Pippi. Bearers: Philippa "Pippa" Middleton (b.1983), sister of Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge. Pippi Longstocking, heroine of Astrid Lindgren's *Pippi Longstocking* (1945), and subsequent books, although in Pippi's case, the name is probably based upon Sw: pip "beep," "bleep," "chirp," and "squeak."

Pippin c ? Pippin originated in the fourteenth century as a word for the seed or pip of various fleshy fruits, from MF: pepin. Since the fifteenth century, it has been used of sweet apples, late-ripening and good-keeping. In the

seventeenth century, it came to be used of a young or foolish person, often with derogatory overtones, but as time went on, these fell away again, and it became increasingly used as a term of endearment. Tolkien used it as the nickname of the hobbit Peregrin Took in the Lord of the Rings. 19th C.

Pir c~ A legendary king of Britain-according to Geoffrey of Monmouth. It may be cognate with the Irish CIAR, and perhaps linked in some way with PI RAN. In Sufism, Pir- meaning "old" in Persian-is the title of a Sufi master. It is sometimes translated into English as "saint."

Piran c~ One of Cornwall's better-known saints, regarded as the patron saint of Cornwall and tin-miners. His flag-a white cross on a black background-has been adopted as the flag of Cornwall. From the thirteenth century, he was identified with the Irish St. Kieran, and ironically the argument used to support this-the fact that when the Irish and Cornish languages diverged, the Celtic k- remained k- in Irish but became p- in Cornish and Welsh-suggests a common ancestry pre-dating Christianity. If St. Kieran had been introduced from Ireland in the sixth century or later, the k- would almost certainly have been preserved. Thus if Kieran and Piran are different forms of the same name, that name is almost certainly of a God or an epithet of the God, meaning "little dark one" or "little black one." 20th C. Var: Perran, Peran, Pyran.

Pireni 2 Romani: pireni "(female) sweetheart."

Piroska 2 Hungarian name of uncertain origin. It may derive from Hun: piros "red" + dim. suffix -ka, thus "little red (one)." It is certainly the case that the name is used in the Hungarian version of Little Red Riding Hood.

Pisces c~ Y The twelfth astrological sign of the zodiac. L: Pisces "fishes" < piscis "fish." Pisces is (unsurprisingly) a water sign. It is also feminine and while traditionally ruled by Jupiter, is now believed to be under the sphere of Neptune. Pisceans are considered to be imaginative, creative, empathic, and trustworthy, but have tendencies to be unrealistic at times, and aloof. Late 20th C.

Piso e The cognomen of a famous branch of the gens Calpurnia, a powerful Roman family; Julius Caesar's father-in-law was one of them. Another was

the historian Lucius Calpurnius Piso Frugi Censorinus (fl. 149-120 BCE).
L: piso "mortar."

Pitambar c~ Epithet of Vishnu and Krishna. San: Pita "yellow" + ambara "sky" and "garment." Yellow is a sacred color in Hinduism, and worn at some religious celebrations.

Pius e In Pagan Rome, the Latin pius-meaning "pious" and "devout"-had quite a different nuance to the English "pious." Pius embodied dutifulness to the Gods, Rome, and family-in that order. A man was pins if he accorded each their due amply enough. In time, the word also acquired meanings such as "conscientious," "affectionate," "tender," "kind," "respectful," "loyal," "honest," and "upright." When the Christians appropriated the word, it largely lost all these other senses and came to refer to religious piety only. It was not uncommon as a Roman cognomen in the Pagan period-the most famous example being the Emperor Antoninus Pius (86-161 CE), after whom the Antonine Wall was named. It was the name of a second-century saint and pope, and from the fifteenth to the twentieth century, a further eleven popes have taken it as their papal name, the last being the controversial Pius XII, pope during the Second World War. It, Sp: Pio.

Pixie Y A supernatural being, typically depicted as small and humanlike with pointed ears. It is most associated with Cornwall and the South-West of England, where it is also called a "piskie." Pixie as a word is found from the early seventeenth century, probably developing as a variant of PUCK. Piskie's Well is another name for St. Nun's Well at Pelynt in Cornwall; pins are still thrown in "to get the good will of the piskies." Pixies are also associated with the Blackdown Hills in Somerset. "Pixie-led" is an expression encountered in Devon, demonstrating the belief that the pixies can cast spells upon people to make them lose their way-even when they are somewhere they know well. In the past in the South-West, the berries of the hawthorn were called "pixie-pears." Early 20th C. Var: Pixy. Bearers: Pixie Geldof (b. 1990), a daughter of Irish singer-songwriter Bob Geldof; Pixie Lott (b. 1991), the British singer-songwriter-whose real first names are Victoria Louise.

Placido e Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian form of Placidus, a name borne by two saints. L: placidus "placid" and "calm"-a fairly widespread Roman cognomen. Fem: Placida. Fr: Placide.

Plantagenet c? The ruling royal house of England between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. It arose from Geoffrey of Anjou's habit of wearing a sprig of broom-Fr: plante genet-in his hat (see Genista). 19th C.

Plato c~ Latin and English form of Greek Platōn < platus "broad" and "broad-shouldered." In the case of the Greek philosopher Plato (428/27-348/47 BCE), the most famous bearer, it may have been a nickname; his birth name was said to have been Aristocles, although there is no contemporary evidence for this. Plato's influence on Greek-and indeed modern-philosophy was immense. Most people don't realize that had Western Paganism survived unmolested, the works of the Greek philosophers would have formed a large part of the backbone of our religious texts, in just the same way as the works of Sanskrit play such an important part in modern Hinduism. Indeed, the Neo-Platonic school of Alexandria, which developed from the third century, was essentially a mystic Pagan religion. Although it was ultimately destroyed by Christianity, Neo-Platonic thought strongly influenced numerous Christian thinkers (in particular, St. Augustine). 16th C.

Plaxy ? The Victorian novelist Charlotte Mary Yonge, who wrote an influential book on names, claimed to have found Plaxy in use in Cornwall; it would be interesting to know her source, as all examples seem to have vanished now. She derived it from Prassede-the Italian form of Praxedes-an alleged second-century Roman saint, who is also known as Praxedis and Praxed. Gr: praxis "a doing," "success," and "action". In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the word was used of practical, as opposed to theoretical, knowledge.'There are some examples of Praxed and Praxy in Wiltshire and Somerset from the seventeenth century onwards, however, so perhaps she simply copied the name down wrong-and mixed up her counties a bit. Olaf Stapledon used Plaxy in his science-fiction novel Sirius (1944), since when the name has come into use.

Pleasance Y A name embraced by the Puritans in the sixteenth century, Pleasance was first used in the thirteenth century, occurring in medieval

records as Plesencia, Placencia, and Plesancia. L: placentia "suavity" and "courteousness" < placeo "to please."

Pleasant c 2 The English "pleasant" derives from AngloNorman: plaisant "delightful" < L: placens "agreeable" and "pleasing" < placeo "to please." 16th C.

Pleione 2 Pleione, daughter of Oceanus and Tethys, was the mother of the seven Pleiades by Atlas. Gr: pleo "to sail" probably so named because the Pleiades rise at the start of the sailing season. 20th C.

Pliny cc Anglicized form of Plinius, a Roman gens, a name borne by two Roman writers: Pliny the Elder (23-79 CE), known for his natural history, and Pliny the Younger (63-c. 113 CE), the statesman and writer, best known for his eyewitness account of the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE. 17th C.

Plum Y c~ The plum is ruled by Venus and Water and in magic is used for love and protection, with branches placed above doors and windows to keep unwanted entities out. Plums have long been used in herbal medicine, the value of the dried plum-the prune-for easing constipation is well-known. In China, the five petals of plum blossom symbolize the Five Blessings: health, wealth, virtue, old age, and a natural death, while in Japan, the plum blossom is called the flower of peace. The origin of the word is not entirely clear; the word "plum" seems to have descended through the Germanic from L:pruna "plum," thought to have passed into the Germanic languages in the Roman period, when the cultivated plum was introduced to Rome's northern provinces.'The surname Plum is from OF: plombe "lead." 17th C. Plumtree is also known, but its origin as a given name is also most likely to be the surname, from Plumtree in Nottinghamshire. OE: plum "plum" + treow "tree."

Plusius c' Epithet of Zeus. Gr: plousios "rich" and "wealthy."

Plutarch A Greco-Roman historian of the first and second centuries CE famous for his "Lives" of famous Romans and Greeks. Gr: ploutos "wealth" + arkhos "leader."

Pluto c~ Latin name for Hades, God of the Underworld. Gr: ploutos "wealth." In 1930, the name was given to the newly discovered ninth "planet," downgraded to a dwarf planet in 2006. At the time of its discovery, however, there was considerable excitement about it, and the Disney character Pluto was named after it-as was the element Plutonium. 18th C.

Plutodotera y Epithet of Demeter. Gr: ploutoder "giver of wealth."

Pocahontas Y A Native American princess who married an early settler in Virginia. During the year she spent with her husband in England before her death in 1617 (at the age of 21 or 22), she became something of a Jacobean celebutante. Pocahontas was said by a seventeenth-century commentator to have been a childhood nickname meaning "little wanton" in the now-extinct language of Powhatan. Sadly there is no means of checking whether this is true or not because too little information on Powhatan survives. It is generally agreed, however, that her real name was Matoaka. "There are one or two examples of Pocahontas being used in the late twentieth century.

Polaris c? Y The North Star, also known as the Lodestar. Among other traditional names are Phoenixe, Angel Stern, and Star of Arcady. L: polaris "of the pole." 19th C.

Polgara Y The name of a sorceress in David Eddings's Belgariad series (1982-84). Late 20th C.

Polinarda ? A name coined for the heroine of the sixteenth-century chivalric romance *Palmerin of England* by Francisco de Moraes Cabral. It seems to be a combination of Poli- from a number of names of classical origin, such as Polyxena, with the -narda ending of Leonarda-the name of another character in the book, who eventually marries Palmerin's brother Florian. 17th C. Bearers: Polinarda, a character in Fletcher and Massinger's play *A Very Woman* (c. 1619-22); Polinarda Stephenson, a woman indicted on suspicion of felony in Middlesex in 1615-16.

Polka 2 Feminine form of Polak "a Pole." "The polka is the name of a dance which originated in Bohemia in the 1830s. 19th C.

Pollux cc Latin form of Polydeuces, the name of one of the "Heavenly Twins" of Gemini. They are also known as the Dioscuri-an archaic word meaning "sons of Zeus." Pollux and his brother were the sons of Zeus by Leda, and brothers of Helen of Troy. They are regarded as the patron Gods of sailors, and are said to appear as St. Elmo's Fire (see Elmo). Gr: polu "much," "many," and "greatly" + deukos "sweet wine." 18th C.

Polly 2 Pet-form of MARY, long used as an independent name. Bearers: Polly Plummer, a character in C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia series; "Sweet Polly Oliver" is a traditional song about a girl who disguises herself as a boy to join the army, dating to at least 1840.

Pollyanna Y The title character of Eleanor H. Porter's Pollyanna (1913), about the little girl with the eternally sunny disposition, famous for playing "the Glad Game." She became so famous that "Pollyanna" has become a generic term for someone who is unshakably optimistic and goodnatured. POLLY + ANNA. 20th C.

Polybius Gg Greek polubios "well-to-do." The name of a famous Greco-Roman historian of the second century BCE. 19th C.

Polycarp Gc Usual English form of Greek Polykarpos "rich in fruit." It was allegedly the name of a first-/second-century saint, said to have been a disciple of St. John the Baptist. 18th C.

Polydorus c? The name of a number of figures in Greek mythology, including one of the Seven Against Thebes, and King Priam of Troy's youngest son. He was sent to the court of King Polymestor during the Trojan War for safety-along with some of the treasure of Troy. When Troy fell, Polymestor murdered the boy and took the treasure, but his death was later avenged by Hecuba. Gr: poludoros "richly gifted." 19th C.

Polyhymnia Y One of the Muses, usually considered the Muse of sacred poetry. Gr: poluumnos "abounding in song" and "much sung of." 18th C.

Polyphron c? Epithet of Hephaestus. Gr: poluphron "very sagacious."

Polyxena 2 The youngest daughter of King Priam. After the fall of Troy, she was sacrificed by the Greeks on the grave of Achilles. His ghost demanded it, stating that there would be no favorable wind to send them home to Greece unless they complied. Later traditions said that this was because he had fallen in love with her, and wished to be reunited with her in death. Gr: poluxenos "very hospitable." 18th C.

Pomona Y Roman Goddess of fruit and fruit trees. L: pomum "a fruit." Used since the late eighteenth century, especially by the Romani. Bearers: Pomona Sprout, a Witch and Professor in the Harry Potter series.

Pompey Anglicized form of Pompeius, the name of a Roman gens, used specifically of Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (106-48 BCE), a general and statesman of the late Roman Republic. It derives from the famous town of Pompeii in Campania, destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE. Its name derives from Oscan: pompe "five." 17th C. It: Pompeo.

Pontia Y Greek: pontios "of the sea"-an epithet of Aphrodite. It is also the feminine form of PONTIUS, and more than one Roman woman of the name is known from Antiquity. An exceedingly obscure saint of the name (quite probably in reality simply a Christianization of Aphrodite) gave her name to the Spanish town of Santa Ponsa. 20th C.

Pontius c? A Roman gens, possibly of Samnite origin. It may ultimately be connected with PONTUS. Its most famous member was the prefect of Judaea, who allegedly tried, judged, and sentenced Jesus during his tenure c. 26-36 CE. Pontius also represents a Latinized form of Gr: pontios "of the sea," which was used as an epithet of Poseidon. It: Ponzio, Sp: Poncio.

Pontus c' Greek: pontus "sea." The name of a primordial Greek God of the sea.

Poppaea Y Feminine form of Poppaeus, the name of a Roman gens. Early 20th C. Bearers: Poppaea Sabina (30-65 CE), wife of the emperor Nero.

Poppet Y The use of "poppet" as a term of endearment dates to the fourteenth century, probably from L: pupa "doll." Its use for a small doll used in Witchcraft is recorded at a similarly early date. Late 19th C.

Bearers: Poppet John (1912-97), the daughter of the British artist Augustus John.

Poppy Y The name of the blood-red wildflower of corn fields and meadows, and now a symbol of Remembrance Day/Veteran's Day on November 11. The Red Poppy Campaign was started with the aim of remembering the dead and promoting peace, so that nothing like World War I would happen again. As early as 1933, many mothers, wives, and daughters of the fallen were increasingly concerned that Remembrance Day and the Poppy Campaign were becoming militarized, and so formed the White Poppy Campaign which maintained the Red Poppy's original emphasis on remembrance and the promotion of peaceful methods to settle international conflict. Red poppies are now chiefly used for their seeds, used in cakes, biscuits, and breads. The white poppy (which isn't always white), is also known as the opium poppy, and is still cultivated legally for medicine-and illegally for recreational drugs-due to the powerful hypnotic and sedative properties of its constituents, particularly morphine. In folklore and magic, the poppy is associated with fertility; eating the seeds is said to aid conception, and they are also used in prosperity charms. It is ruled by Water and the Moon. OE: *popaeg* < L: *papaver* "poppy." 19th C. Bearers: Poppy Palin, a British artist and writer on Wild Witchcraft.

Porcelain 2 The name used of fine bone china. OF: *porcelaine* (used originally of a type of mollusk with an iridescent shell) < It: *porcellana* < L: *porcella* "little pig"-a translation of Gr: *khoirine* (the name of a small sea-mussel) < *khoiros* "young pig." 19th C. Var: *Porcelaine* (hist).

Porphyra 2 Feminine form of PORPHYRY. *Porphyra* is the name of a type of edible seaweed. The very similar *porphyria* is the name of a medical disorder, of which a major symptom is the purple discoloration of urine. King George III of Great Britain was a famous sufferer.

Porphyry c~ 2 English form of Greek *Porphyrios* < *porphureos* "purple." Extracted from various mollusks-in particular the *murex* (*porphura* in Greek)-purple was an expensive dye in ancient times, which became associated with royalty and the imperial throne. Porphyry of Tyre (a centre of the production of purple dye) was a third-century CE Neo-Platonic philosopher, and the name was also borne by a fourth-/fifth-century

saint. The Latin Porphyrius is used of a celebrated fifth-/sixth-century Byzantine charioteer. Porphyry is also the name of a hard, purplish-red igneous rock from Egypt. It is noted for its large-grained crystals of feldspar or quartz. It was a popular luxury stone for columns and other architectural features in the ancient and medieval world. It, Sp: Porfirio.

Porrex c~ The name of two legendary kings of Britain, recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth. It may derive from BARREX.

Porrina 2 A Roman Goddess of childbirth and prophecy. Known also as Antevorta and Prorsa, she is also linked with Carmentis; she and the Goddess Postverta are sometimes worshipped together as the Carmentes. They both have knowledge of the past and an ability to foretell the future. In Roman times, prayers were offered to Porrina if a child was being born head first, and to Postverta if it was breech. L: porro "long ago" and "in future." It is also the name of a binary star in Virgo, with the scientific name of Gamma Virginis.

Porter c~ English surname. Either Anglo-Norman: portier, porter "gatekeeper" (especially at the entrance of a castle or fortified town) < Late L: portarius < L: porta "gate," or Anglo-Norman: porteur "carrier (of goods)" < L: porto "to carry." 16th C.

Portia y Variant of Porcia used by Shakespeare in Julius Caesar for the name of the wife of Junius Brutus, and in The Merchant of Venice, for the rich heiress, who is the object of Bassanio's affections. Porcia is the feminine of Porcius, a Roman gens < L: porcus "pig." 16th C. Var: Porsha (mod).

Poseidon c? The principal Greek God of the sea, Poseidon also held sway over earthquakes and horses. In ancient times, he was considered the protector of numerous cities; one myth states that he competed with Athene for Athens; he offered the city a salt spring, she an olive tree. The Athenians chose the olive. Gr: posis "husband" and "spouse" + PIE: *deyw-o-. Attested in Linear B tablets (c. 1500-1100 BCE).

Postumus c~ Latin: postumus "last" and "last-born"-used specifically of children born after the death of their father. 16th C. Var: Posthumus.

Bearers: Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa Postumus (12 BCE-14 CE), the grandson of Emperor Augustus. Fem: Postuma, Posthuma.

Posy Y The word "posy" originated as a variant of "poesy." Before it came to mean "a small bunch of flowers," it meant "a poem" or other imaginative composition. MF: poesie < L: poesis "poem." 20th C. Var: Poesy, Posie. Bearers: Posy Fossil, a character in Noel Streatfield's Ballet Shoes (1936).

Potentilla Y A genus of annual, biennial, and perennial herbs. Among them are cinquefoils and tormentils, although it was originally applied to the silverweed. L: patens "powerful" (of plants-"efficacious") + dim. suffix -illa, thus "powerful little plant."

Potiphar c~ A wealthy Egyptian who purchased Joseph in the biblical tale. Potiphar was said to have been impressed by Joseph and made him head of his household slaves. But his wife-being the "typical" non-Jewish biblical floozy-wanted her share of Joseph too. When he spurned her, she took revenge, leading to Joseph's imprisonment in the royal clink. Potiphar's name really is of Egyptian origin, and means "he whom Ra gave." 18th C. Bearers: Potiphar Cubbins, a character in Rudyard Kipling's Departmental Ditties (1886).

Potnia Y Greek: potnia "queen"-used particularly of Goddesses. Potnia'Iheadn "Queen of the Goddesses" is a title of Hera, while Potnia'Iheron "Queen of Wild Beasts" is a title of Artemis.

Power c~ The use of Power as a given name since the seventeenth century has, by and large, been an adoption of the surname, from OF: Pokier "a Picard" or pouvre "poor." Ike English "power" is from Anglo-Norman: poer < L: possum "to be able."

Prabhakar c Indian name. San: prabha "light," "radiance," and "splendor" + kara "ray." A name of Shiva.

Prabodh e Indian name. San: prabodha "awakening." Closely related is Prabodhan-San: prabodhana "enlightenment." Fem: Prabodhani.

Praecipua ? A star in Leo Minor, known scientifically as 46 Leonis Minoris. L: praecipuus "taken before others," "first" and "pre-eminent"--a reference to the fact it is the constellation's brightest star.

Prakash c Indian name. San: prakasa "bright," "clear," "shining," "light," "splendor," and "enlightened"-often used of the sun or the moon.

Pramod e Indian name. San: pramoda "delight," "joy," "cheerfulness." One of the names of the Hindu God Ganesh. Fem: Pramodi.

Pran c~ Indian name. San: prana "breath of life."

Pranav cc Indian name. San: pranava "to sound loudly"the name given to the sacred and mystical sound aum.

Prasad e Sanskrit: prasada "favor," "grace," and "loving kindness." In Hinduism, used to refer to a food offering made to the Gods. After the Gods have taken its essence, it can then be eaten by the devotee.

Pratibha 2 Indian name. San: pratibha "intelligence," "shining," "creativity," and "understanding."

Preben c~ Modern Danish form of the Medieval Danish Pridbjorn, itself a reworking of Pritbor, an old Slavic name from prid "foremost" + bor "battle."The name was picked up by Vikings during their expansion into Russian territory in the ninth and tenth centuries.

Precious Y Precious has been used as a term of affection since at least the early seventeenth century. Its use as a given name is almost as old too, occurring from the start of the eighteenth century and possibly earlier. L: pretiosus "costly" and "highly prized" < pretium "price."

Prem c Indian name. San: preman "love."

Premlata Y Indian name. San: preman "love" + lata "creeper"-the name of a small plant, used as a symbol of love.

Presley Y English surname. A variant of Priestley, from OE: preost "priest" + leak. 18th C. Use in the latter twentieth century has often been in honor

of Elvis Presley (1935-77). Since the 1990s, it has seen increasing use as a girl's name.

Preston (' English surname, taken from one of the places of the name. OE: preost "priest" + tun. The surname was borne by an aristocratic English family, which has held the title of Viscounts of Gormanston since the fifteenth century. 17th C. Bearers: Dr Preston Burke, a character in Grey's Anatomy (2005-).

Pretty Y c' Pretty's use as a name from the nineteenth century is partly an adoption of the surname, from OE: pr&ttin and partly the adjective, from the same source, which had acquired the meaning of "attractive" by the fifteenth century. Bearers: Pretty Crane, a character in the American television series Passions (1999-2008).

Priam c~ The King of Troy during the Trojan War. His name may be Luwian: priimuua "exceptionally courageous." When the Greeks finally took Troy, he was killed by Achilles's son Neoptolemus. 16th C.

Priapus e A Phrygian fertility God. His worship was introduced into Greece during the period of the Macedonian Empire. Said to be a son of Aphrodite by Dionysus, he is famous for his enormous genitals. A God of gardens, bees, goats, and sheep, and protector of shepherds, fishermen, and farmers, his worship lingered in the countryside-longer and more openly than all other deities. As late as the thirteenth century, there is a record of a lay Cistercian brother erecting a statue of Priapus in the hope that it would end an outbreak of disease amongst a monastery's cattle.

Primavera y Italian: primavera "spring" < L: primus "first" + ver "spring." La Primavera (c. 1482) is one of Sandro Botticelli's most famous paintings, depicting Venus and Cupid accompanied by the Graces dancing a rondel, while Mercury picks a fruit from a tree, and Flora scatters flowers. 20th C.

Primrose Y A cheerful little flower of early spring-Primula vulgaris. L: Primus "first" + rasa "rose." A herb of Venus and Earth, it is valued for its protective qualities by Witches, and is often planted in pots by doors.'The old country name for it-password-probably alludes to this. Primroses were mixed with mutton fat to make an ointment said to be very efficacious at

healing cuts and bruises, and it is still used medicinally for muscular rheumatism and gout, as a sedative, and for nervous headaches.'The surname arose as a nickname taken from the flower. 18th C.

Primula y Late Latin: primula "primrose" < primus "first"+ -ul-, reference to the early blossoming nature of the flower. 19th C.

Prince c~ Early examples of Prince as a given name represent a transferred use of the surname. OF: prince "a prince"used as a nickname, possibly of someone who acted like a prince, claimed royal connections, or played a prince in medieval mummer or mystery plays.'The French derives ultimately from L: princeps "first" and "foremost," which later came to mean "leader" and to be a title of the emperor.

Princess y English feminine of PRINCE < Fr: princesse. The word has been used as a term of endearment since at least the early eighteenth century, and in use as a given name since the early nineteenth.'The British pop-singer Peter Andre and television personality Katie Price (a.k.a. Jordan) named their daughter Princess Tiaamii Crystal Esther in 2007.

Prisca Y Feminine form of PRISCUS. As Priscus was a pretty common Roman cognomen, Prisca-and its diminutive PRISCILLA-also saw a fair amount of use. It was the name of the wife of Emperor Diocletian, who was murdered in 315 CE after Diocletian's death. St. Prisca is a shadowy saint, about whom little is known. 17th C.

Priscilla Y A feminine diminutive form of PRISCUS, borne by a character in the New Testament, the wife of a man called Aquila. 16th C.'The word "prissy," which dates to the late nineteenth century, may be derived from itperhaps a testament to long-lasting Puritan influencealthough it is more likely a blend of "prim" and "sissy." Dim: Cilla, SCILLA, Prissy, and Pris. Bearers: Priscilla Presley (b. 1945), the American actress; Priscilla "Cilia" Black (b. 1943), the English singer.

Priscus ' A common Roman cognomen < L: priscus "of former times," "ancient" and therefore "old-fashioned." Bearers: Tarquinius Priscus (fl. 616-579 BCE), the legendary king of early Rome; Gains Julius Priscus (fl. 242-44 CE), the brother of the Roman Emperor Philip the Arab.

Priya y Indian name. San: priya "beloved," "favorite," and "darling."

Probus g Latin: probus "honest," "upright," and "superior." It was a widespread Roman cognomen, borne most prominently by the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius Probus (c. 232-82 CE). There is also a Welsh surname, a corruption of Proberts < ap Robert "son of ROBERT." 16th C.

Procne ? Daughter of Pandion, sister of Philomela and wife of Tereus. Gr: prokne "swallow"-Procne was turned into a swallow (see Philomela).

Procyon e The popular name of Alpha Canis Minoris, brightest star in Canis Minor, and the seventh-brightest star in the sky. Gr: pro "before" + kwon "dog," a reference to the fact that it rises before the Dog Star-Sirius.

Prometheus cc Greek: prometheia "foresight." A Titan, son of Iapetus and Themis, who stole fire from the Gods to give to mortals. For his crime, he was tied to a rock where his liver was daily picked out by an eagle. Because he was an immortal, it always grew back again during the night. Prometheus has become a symbol of resistance against tyranny. 19th C.

Pronoia 2 Epithet of Athene. Gr:pronoia "foreknowledge."

Propertius cc A Roman poet of the first century BCE. His full name was Sextus Aurelius Propertius, and he was a contemporary of Virgil and Ovid. Most of his poetry is about or dedicated to a woman whom he calls Cynthia. Probably L: propero "to make haste," "to be quick."

Prophecy Y e The concept of prophecy is known throughout all cultures and periods of history. When and how it first developed is unknown, but its origins seem to lie deep in prehistory. Gr: propheteia "prophecy" < prophetes "prophet" < pro "before" + phetes "speaker," which is probably cognate with CC: *wfti- "sooth-sayer" and "prophet." 20th C.

Proselenos 2 An elderly Witch in Petronius's first-century CE novel The Satyricon. Gr: proselenos "before the moon" and "older than the moon"-an epithet used of the people of Arcadia, who prided themselves on their antiquity.

Proserpina 2 Latin form of PERSEPHONE. Its form was influenced by L: proserpo "to creep forwards," which was used of plants coming forth imperceptibly-a reference to Proserpina's role as a Goddess of the spring. 19th C. Var: Proserpine.

Prosper a' Y Latin: prosper "fortunate," "lucky," and "prosperous." Two saints of the Roman period bore the name. 16th C. Fem: Prospera. It: PROSPERO.

Prosperity Y Anglo-Norman: prosperitee < L: prosperitas "good fortune" and "prosperity." 20th C.

Prospero c~ Italian form of PROSPER. It is the form by which the saints of the name are known in Italy, but in the ESW, it is closely associated with the deposed duke and sorcerer in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The name was a favorite with English Renaissance and Restoration playwrights also occurring in John Webster's *The Devil's Claw* (1623), and Richard Rhodes's *Flora's Vagaries* (1663). Bearers: Prospero, a wizard in John Bellair's *The Face in the Frost* (1969). *Prospero's Books*, based on *The Tempest*, is a 1991 film by Peter Greenaway.

Protasia 2 An obscure third-century saint, the feminine of PROTASIUS. 16th C-particularly in the South West of England. Var: Prothasia, Prothesia, Prothasie, Prothasy, Protace, Protase, Protese, Protesia, Proteyze, Pertizia, Pertesie.

Protasius c~ A second-century saint, usually teamed with St. Gervasius. His feast day is June 19. The name's meaning is unclear, but a plausible derivation is from Gr: protasis "proposition", "proposal" and "premiss" < protithemi "to place before". This verb also carried the sense of "to expose" a child - i.e. to leave a baby out to die. This was common practice in the ancient world; such children were often "rescued," though often to be raised in slavery. Another sensible option is proteino "to stretch out before," which could carry the same sense as protithemi, but also meant "to offer," as a pledge. Var: Prothasius, Prothasis.

Proteus c Called the "Old Man of the Sea" by Homer, Proteus is an early sea God. Gr: proteuo "to be first." In later myth, he came to be regarded as

a son of Poseidon or Nereus, and featured in tales as a shape-shifting deity who foretells the future-but only to those who can catch him. Late 18th C.

Prudence Y Latin: prudentia "good sense," "prudence," and "discretion." One of the most classic of the Puritan virtue names, it was actually first used in the thirteenth century. Dim: Pru, Prue, Prudy, Prudie, Purdie, Purdy. Bearers: Prudence Farrow (b. 1948), the sister of the actress Mia, for whom John Lennon wrote "Dear Prudence" (1968); Prudence "Prue" Halliwell, a Witch, one of the main characters in the American drama Charmed (1998-2006).

Prunella Y Botanical name for selfheal, an important herb with deep violet-blue flowers. As its common name suggests, it is a little treasure chest for home remedies-another of its names is all-heal. Antiseptic and antibacterial, it can be used to treat all manner of ailments from boils to food poisoning.'The Chinese were using it to treat liver complaints in the Han Dynasty (206 BCE-23 CE). It is also used to treat high blood-pressure, and is proven to be an antioxidant and immune-system booster, but it is especially valued for treating wounds.'The origins of Late L:prunella itself are a little uncertain; it is generally taken to be an alteration of BRUNELLA, altered to prunella perhaps under the influence of L: prunus "plum-tree."The Druids of old collected it in a manner similar to mistletoe, picking it when Sirius was rising on the dark of the moon. In the case of the Italian fairy-tale "Prunella," the heroine's name does derive from prunus-she acquired the name because she picked a plum from the tree every day on the way to school, not knowing the tree belonged to a wicked Witch. The girl is captured and sent on various errands, aided by the Witch's son; eventually the Witch is defeated (as is usually the case in such fairy tales) and Prunella and the Witch's son live happily ever after. Late 19th C. Dim: Pru, Prue. Bearers: Prunella Scales (b. 1932), the British actress.

Prussia Y The former German kingdom. For centuries it was a powerful and influential state at the heart of Europe. It derived its name from the Medieval Latin Prusi, the name of the non-Germanic tribes which formerly inhabited the area. Its original meaning is unknown, but is likely to be Balto-Slavic. 19th C.

Pryderi cc The son of King Pwyll and Rhiannon. Kidnapped at birth, he grew up with the name Gwri Wallt Euryn ("Gwri of the Golden Hair"), receiving the name Pryderi when he was at last reunited with his parents. Pryderi is said to derive-or share a root with-W: pryderu "to take pains" and "to be anxious." There is a strong case for Pryderi being one and the same with Mahon and Aengus. 20th C.

Prydwen y Welsh: pryd 'complexion' + gwyn. It was traditionally the name given to King Arthur's ship in Welsh versions of his tales. Late 19th C.

Prysor e A small river in Merionethshire, made familiar in Wales through a poem by Welsh war poet Hedd Wyn. W: prys "grove" or "copse." Late 19th C.

Psamathe 2 The name of more than one character in Greek mythology; one Psamathe was a Nereid, another was the mother of Linus. Gr: psamathos "sand," especially "sea-sand." Var: Psamanthe-found in some versions of Ovid's Metamorphoses (8 BCE).

Psilax c~ Epithet of Dionysus. Gr: psilax "winged."

Psipsina 2 Modern Greek: psipsina "pussy cat." It featured in Louis de Bernieres' Captain Corelli's Mandolin (1993), first as the name of a pine marten, and later as the nickname of a little girl.

Psyche y Greek: psukhe "life," "soul," and "spirit." In Greek mythology, Psyche was a mortal girl who became the bride of Cupid and-after many trials and tribulations-immortal. 17th C.

Ptah cc Egyptian God of creation, who is said to have created the world in a dream-and breathed it into existence. He is also the God of craftsmanship. Egyptian: ptH "to open," thought to be a reference to Ptah opening his mouth to breathe out the world, or the practice of opening the mouths of the dead so their souls could leave the body-a ritual he was said to have instigated. Gr: Phtha, Phthas.

Pteris c~ Y Botanical name for bracken. Gr: pteris "male fern" < pteron "feather" and "wing."

Ptolemy c~ Anglicized form of Latin Ptolemaeus < Greek Ptolemaios < ptoleμος "war." 17th C. Bearers: Ptolemy I Soter (c. 367-283 BCE), founder of the Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt; Claudius Ptolemaeus (c. 90-168 CE)-usually just Ptolemy-the polymath. 17th C.

Pualani y Hawaiian name-pua "flower" + Tani "heavenly."

Publius e Roman praenomen, probably from L: populus "people" and "the public." 17th C.

Pucelle Y Pucelle aux Blanch Mains (Pucelle of the White Hands) is the name of a fairy or sorceress who features in the tale of Sir Gingalain, one of the Knights of the Round Table. Fr: pucelle "young girl" and "virgin." La Pucelle was the name Joan of Arc used in her lifetime.

Puck cc A mischievous spirit of English folklore. It may be cognate with the Icelandic: pziki (the name given to a mischievous demon in Iceland), Scand: puke "devil" and "evil spirit," Ir: pooca, and W: pwca/pwci "brownie" or "goblin." It is also probably connected with W: bwg(a) "ghost" and bwgan "troll," and English "bog(e)y," "bog," and "bug"-all names for mischievous or "wicked" spirits. Puck itself also occurs in the variant "pouk" and diminutive "puckle." It has been suggested the word derives from ME: poke "bag," or from the same root. However, while it may be cognate at a very deep level with the Scandinavian versions, Puck is more likely to have a Celtic origin, especially given the prevalence of the word and its variants in the Celtic lands. This might be CC: *bekko- "small," or *bukko- "soft" or "tender." 19th C.

Pulcherrima Y Latin: pulcherrima "most beautiful" < pulcher "beatiful." Pulcherrima is one of the names of Epsilon Bootis, a star in the constellation Bootes, which is also called Izar and Mirak.

Puma Y cc A name for the cougar, a large South American cat. The word comes from the Quechuan word for the animal, which was introduced into English through Spanish. 19th C.

Purdey Y Purdey was a character in the British television adventure series The New Avengers in the late 1970s. The choice of name is said to be a

reference to the British gunmanufacturer Purdey, named after its founder, James Purdey, rather than a variant of Purdie and Purdy, traditional petforms of PRUDENCE. The surname is from the French oath pour Dieu! "By God!" Most use of Purdey for girls has been since the television show.

Purnima 2 Indian name. San: purnima "day of the full moon" or "full moon night." It features in the name of a number of festivals, such as Kartik Poornima-also called the Gods' Diwali-celebrated at the full moon in late November or early December. Sharad Purnima is a harvest festival, celebrated at the full moon of late September or early October. Var: Poornima.

Purple Y cc Purple originated as an altered form of "purpure" < L: purpureus "purple" < Gr: porphura-the name of the shellfish from which Tyrian purple was made (see Porphyry). Long associated with royalty, to Pagans it is considered a color of Spirit. It also signifies power, healing, and protection. Late 20th C.

Purslane c~ Y A herb, ruled by the Moon and Water. L: portulaca "purslane" < portula "little gate"-not such a strange name, as the top of the seed capsule on the plant forms a separate lid-hence the "little gate." It has long been used for salads and soups. In herbal medicine, it is regarded as a cooling herb, and in the past, it was used to ease dry coughs, stop hemorrhaging, lessen excessive heat, and ease thirstiness. In ancient times it was regarded as an "anti-magic" plant and was strewn around a bed to protect from bad spirits during sleep. Today it is sometimes used in magic to help forget a lost love. Var: Porcelaine (hist).

Pushan Gc A Hindu sun God, one of the Adityas. He is responsible for marriages and journeys, protecting travelers from bandits and dangerous wild animals. San: pus "cause to thrive." Var: Puchan.

Puteri Y Malaysian name. Malay: puteri "princess" and "daughter." Indonesian: Putri. Masc: Putera; Putra (Indonesian).

Pwyll c~ Pwyll survives in myth as a Celtic king, Lord of Dyfed, who held court at Arberth (modern Narberth). His story-his friendship with Arawn, King of the Underworld; how he won the hand of Rhiannon; and the birth,

loss, and recovery of his son Pryderi-forms the "First Branch" of the Mabinogion. He is probably a Celtic God of wisdom and reason; his name seems to derive from CC: *kw(E)lsf "mind," "spirit," and "reason." In Old Welsh this became pail and in Middle Welsh pwyll. In Modern Welsh it means "discretion" and "steadiness." Mid-20th C.

Pygmalion A name borne by two figures of classical mythology and legend. Pygmalion of Tyre-portrayed by Virgil in the Aeneid as a cruel tyrant responsible for his sister leaving Phoenicia and founding Carthage-was a historic figure, whose Phoenician name was Pu'mayyatón. The second Pygmalion was the legendary sculptor, who carved an image of a woman-and fell in love with his own creation. Venus, moved to pity, animated the statue-Galatea-and the two lived happily ever after.

Pyramus c? The name of the ancient world's Romeo. Pyramus and Thisbe lived in adjacent houses in Babylon but there was a feud between the two families. Despite this, the two fell in love, communicating through a crack in the wall. They decided to elope, arranging to meet in the woods beneath a white mulberry tree. Thisbe arrived first, but unfortunately, a lion appeared upon the scene, fresh from a kill, before Pyramus joined her. Thisbe hid, but dropped her shawl, which the lion mauled for a bit before going off. At this point, Pyramus finally arrived, saw the shawl, imagined the worst-and promptly fell on his sword. His blood stained the white mulberry fruits red. Thisbe emerged, found her lover dying, and killed herself too. In tribute to the star-crossed lovers, the Gods turned the fruit of the mulberry dark red forever more. Pyramus derives either from Gr: pur "fire," or puros "wheat." 17th C. Pyramus is a Romani name.

Pyronia y Epithet of Artemis. Gr: pur "fire."

Pyrrha Y Feminine form of PYRRHUS. The daughter of Epimetheus and Pandora, Pyrrha became the wife of Deucalion. They were the only survivors of the Great Flood at the end of the Golden Age (see Deucalion). 20th C.

Pyrrhus c~ A name borne by numerous historical and mythological figures in Ancient Greece, such as Pyrrhus, King of Epirus (318-272 BCE) famous for his "Pyrrhic" victories-he won his battles but it cost him everything he

had. Pyrrhus was also another name for Achilles's son Neoptolemus. Gr: purros "flame-colored" and "yellowish-red." 18th C.

Pythia Y The name of the priestess of the temple of Apollo at Delphi. The Pythia was the Oracle of Ancient Greece. To prophesize, she first went through a purification ritual, including a period of fasting. Then she would bathe in the Castalian Spring, drink the waters of the Kassotis fountain, and eat bay leaves, before descending into the inner sanctum of the temple of Apollo. There, she sat upon a chair over a chasm, out of which came the pneuma-"wind," "breath," and "spirit." It has been speculated that this might have been ethylene. Even in quite small amounts, this can induce trances and a euphoric state. In her hands she held a branch of the bay laurel and a dish of water from the Kassotis. Pythia derives from PYTHO.

Pythius c~ Epithet of Apollo, meaning "of PYTHO."

Pytho Y The name of the great she-serpent, sometimes described as an Earth dragon, which dwelt at Delphi. She was the guardian of the already existing Oracle of Ge or Themis. When Apollo killed her, he took over the Oracle. The name is said to derive from Gr: putho "to rot," interpreted as referring to the rotting corpse of the Python. However, it is more likely that the Greeks reworked a non-Greek name to give it meaning in Greek. All the evidence suggests that Delphi was a very ancient site of reverence and worship, long before the arrivals of the Greeks and the Greek language.

Python c~ Y Variant of PYTHO, used as a given name in the ancient world; one of the students of Plato bore it. The word "python" was first applied to a genus of large snakes in the early nineteenth century.

Qamar a Arabic name-qamar "moon."

Qays , Arabic name-qayyas "measure." "The name of the hero of the seventh-century romance Qays wa Lubna. Var: Qais.

Qi a' Y Chinese name. Mand: qa "alder"; of "cauldron," "earth-spirit," "peace," "felicity," "unicorn," "angel," "wonderful," and "strange"; qi "star," "open-work silk." Var: Q1-Q1.

Quartilla Y A feminine diminutive of QUARTUS "little fourth (girl)," used in the Roman period. 20th C. A priestess of Priapus in Petronius's first-century novel the Satyricon is called Quartilla.

Quartus e Occasionally used as a praenomen in Roman times, there was a minor character in the New Testament of the name. L: quartus "fourth." In numerology the number four is regarded as the Builder and represents stability, progress, justice, civilization, tradition, wisdom, and health. 17th C.

Quartz e Y The word "quartz" derives from the German quarz of uncertain origin. It has been used in English since the seventeenth century as the name of a naturally occurring mineral within rocks. The clear variety is known as "rock crystal" or simply "crystal," and is the traditional type of crystal used for a "crystal ball." There are numerous varieties, such as rose quartz, star quartz, and smoky quartz. 20th C.

Queenie 2 A Victorian pet-name, often used for girls whose first name was VICTORIA or REGINA. By the end of the nineteenth century, it was being used as a genuine given name. Queenie was the nickname of Queen Elizabeth I in the British television comedy series Blackadder II (1986).

Quentin e Deriving from the Latin name Quinctinus and ultimately from QUINTUS, this was the name of a third-century French saint. It was brought to England by the Normans. Var: Quintin, QUINTON. Bearers: Quentin Tarantino (b. 1963), the American film director; Quentin Crisp (1908-99), the English writer; Quentin Blake (b. 1932), the English

illustrator and cartoonist. *Quentin Durward* (1823) is a novel by Walter Scott; Quentin Collins was a character in the American Gothic soap opera *Dark Shadows* (1966-71).

Quert c ? The Ogham name for the apple, being the Old Irish word for "apple -tree." The word ultimately derives from PIE: *perkwu- "oak," from which the Latin *quercus* "oak" also developed. In the Tree Calendar, Quert is the month spanning September 2-29. Var: Quiert, Cert, Ceirt.

Quest c~ Y The theme of the quest dominates medieval literature, often symbolic of the spiritual quest. The Quest for the Holy Grail-on the surface quite Christian-actually may have originated as an encoding of the Celtic belief system and teachings of Druids. OF: *queste* "gain" and "acquisition" < Late L: *questa* "tax" and "tribute" < L: *quaero* "to seek." By the fourteenth century, the English had acquired its modern meanings of "hunt," "search," and "pursuit." The surname Quest (responsible for Quest's first use as a given name) comes from the same source, but was probably used metonymically for a tax-collector. 19th C.

Quince c Y The English name of two species of flowering and fruiting plant-Cydonia and Chaenomeles-and their fruit. In ancient times, the quince was known as the Cydonian apple. ME: *coyn* "quince" < CYDONIA. Quinces are ruled by Saturn and Earth, and used in magic in spells relating to love, protection, and happiness; quince seeds are used as protective charms. The plant has been held sacred to Venus since Antiquity, and the golden apples of the Hesperides are sometimes said to have been quinces. Quinces were frequently sent as wedding presents in Roman times, and it was traditional for a bride and groom to share a quince. The surname Quince (responsible for the first use of Quince as a name) is a variant of QUINCY. 17th C. Bearers: Quince Duncan (b. 1940), the Costa Rican writer; (Peter) Quince, a character in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Quincy 6 Y An English surname deriving from the town of Cuinchy in Pas-de-Calais. In earliest records, this appears as Quinci and is believed to have been named after a landowner called QUINTUS or Quinctius-a Roman gens, itself derived from Quintus. The name has seen most use in America,

largely due to the celebrity of John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), sixth president of the United States. 18th C.

Quinn c~ 2 An English and Irish surname. The English arose as a nickname from OF: quin "monkey." The Irish is an Anglicization of the surname O Cuinn "descendant of CONN." 17th C. Var: Quin.

Quinta Y Feminine of QUINTUS, Quinta was a common name for girls in Roman times. Claudia Quinta was a Roman matron who was criticized for her excess but was responsible for getting the ship carrying the cult statue of Cybele to Rome unstuck off a sandbar, for which she was hailed a heroine and celebrated for centuries. 18th C. Var: Quintilla.

Quintessence c~ Y In classical and medieval philosophy the "fifth essence" (sometimes referred to as aether or ether) was believed to exist in addition to the four elements, being the substance from which the celestial bodies were made, and said to be latent in all things. One of the goals of alchemy was to extract this essence by distillation. L: quintus "fifth" + essentia "being" or "essence." 20th C.

Quintilian c~ The name of an influential first-century Roman rhetorician, whose work was admired and emulated in the Renaissance. Quintilian is the Anglicized form of the Latin Quintilianus, deriving from the gens Quintilia/ Quinctilia, itself from QUINTUS. 17th C.

Quinton e Usually treated as a variant of QUENTIN, Quinton is also an English surname deriving partly from Quentin, partly from one of the places in France called St. Quentin, and partly from the village of Quinton in Warwickshire-OE: cwen "queen" + tun. 17th C.

Quintus ci Roman praenomen, borne by Romans such as Quintus Horatius Flaccus-better known as the poet Horace-and Quintus Fabius Maximus, the "Delayer," a famous Roman general who was instrumental in the defeat of Hannibal. L: quintus "fifth"-though in Roman times it had become so established that it was mostly used with no reference to the meaning. In numerology, the number 5 is regarded as the Visionary, and represents adventure, imagination, storytelling, freedom, healing, unconditional love, kindness, and resourcefulness. 16th C.

Quirinus c' In Roman legend, Quirinus was the name assumed by Romulus after his deification. In all probability, Quirinus was originally a God of war, becoming assimilated with Romulus in the early days of the Republic. The name seems to derive from the Sabine town of Cures, suggesting that Quirinus may have once been its titular God. More than one early saint bore the name-including two beheaded in Rome, one in the early second century, the other in the midthird. Either or both may represent a Christianization of the God. 17th C. Fr, Ger: Quirin, It, Port: Quirino. Bearers: Quirinus Quirrell, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Quixote e Quixote is the name Alonso Quixano assumes when he resolves to become a chivalric knight-errant of old and go seeking adventures, in Cervantes's Don Quixote (1605, 1615).The name derives from Spanish: quote (originally quixote) "cuisse"-the thigh-piece of a suit of armor; one of the things Quixote does prior to setting off is to don an old suit of armor. 19th C.

Ra cc Egyptian God of the sun, and one of the principal deities of the Egyptian pantheon. Egyptian: ra "sun" and "day." Ra was later linked with both Horns and Amun, when together the two Gods became Amun-Ra. The name often appears in Egyptian names, such as RAMESSES and Rahotep, which combines Ra with Htp "peace" or the related sHtp "to satisfy." He is often depicted with the head of a falcon. Late 19th C.

Rabab Y Arabic name-rabab "rehab," a type of musical instrument. It vaguely resembles a banjo, but it is played with a bow. Var: Rebab.

Rabelais e Y Francois Rabelais (bef. 1494-1553) was a French Renaissance humanist writer, so famous for his satire, grotesque fantasy, and bawdy jokes and songs that the expression "Rabelaisian" is still used to describe anything that is bawdily satirical. He is best known for Pantagruel (1532) and Gargantua (1534).

Rabi c Arabic name-rabi "the spring." Fem: Rabiyah, Rabia, Rabi'ah, Rabeeah.

Rabo c Hausa: rabo "lot," "portion," and "fate."

Rachan c~ `Thai name-rachan "royal blood" and "royal lineage."

Rachel 2 Hebrew: rahel "ewe." In the Bible, it is the name of Jacob's favorite wife, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin. It was widely used in the Jewish community in the Middle Ages but did not come into general usage until the sixteenth century. Var: Rachael; Rachelle (mod). Dim: RAY, Rae, Rache, Rachie (mod). Haw: Lahela, Fr, Ger: Rachel, It: Rachele, Jr Ga: Raicheal, Scand: Rakel, Sp, Port: RAQUEL. Bearers: Rachael Horseburgh and Rachel Forrester, both tried for Witchcraft in Scotland in 1649-what their fates were is unknown; Rachel Clinton (c. 1629-95), one of those accused of Witchcraft at Salem-she was released in 1693 and died in poverty.

Rada Y Short form of Czech Radoslava and Polish Radoslawa, feminine forms of RADOSLAV. The word rada also means "advice" in Czech, Polish,

and Slovak, while in Swahili it means "(divine) retribution."

Radagast c~ Radagast "the Brown" is a wizard in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. He is known for his affinity with the birds. In Unfinished Tales (1980), it is recorded that his name means "tender of beasts" in Adunic, one of Tolkien's invented languages.

Radamisto e Italian form of Rhadamistus, Radamisto is the title of an opera of 1720 by Handel. Rhadamistus was an Iberian prince, who was king of Armenia in the first century CE, and ended up at war with Rome. Fleeing from a revolt, his pregnant wife-Zenobia-persuaded him to kill her, as she was unable to go on and did not wish to fall into the hands of their enemies. Rhadamistus is the Latin form of Rhadamistos, a Hellenized form of Rhadamistus's true name, which is unknown, along with its etymology; the modern Armenian form is Ghadam.

Radegund Y Old German Radagundis < rada "counsel" + gundi "war." St. Radegund was a sixth-century Frankish queen. For some reason, a number of churches were dedicated to her in England in the medieval period, including a nunnery in Cambridge, which became Jesus College in 1490. 16th C. Var: Radigone, Radygon, Radigon.

Radha y San: radha "success." Radha is the friend and wife of Krishna in Hindu mythology. In some traditions, she is considered to be the supreme Goddess-the original Shakti.

Radiance Y cc The word "radiance" derives from RADIANT and dates to the late sixteenth century. Late 19th C.

Radiant Y ' The first attested example of "radiant" as a given name-which derives from L: radio "to gleam"-is Devon, England, where a child called Zenith Radiant Jones was registered in 1896.

Radmila ? Feminine form of RADOMIL used in a number of Slavic lands, in particular the Czech Republic, Serbia, and Croatia. Var: Radomila.

Radomil cc Czech name-rad "glad" + mil "gracious," "beloved," and "dear."

Radoslav cc Czech name-rad "glad" + slav "glory." Pol: Radoslaw, Raclaw.

Radulf a' Medieval form of RALPH. Revived 20th C.

Rafferty e 2 Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic surnames O Raifeartaigh and O Robhartaigh. O Raifeartaigh means "descendant of the wielder of prosperity" from rath "prosperity" + beartaich "to brandish" and "to wield". O Robhartaigh, meanwhile, is from robharta "spring tide" and "flood," and is more correctly Anglicized as O'Roarty. 19th C. Var: Rabhartach, Robhartach.

Rafi cc Arabic name-rafi "high," "supreme," "astral," "sublime," "fine," and "thin."

Rafiki c~ ? Swahili: rafiki "friend" and "comrade" < RAFIQ,

Rafiq c~ Arabic name-rafiq "companion" and "intimate friend." Fem: Rafiqa.

Rage ' Y Anglo-Norman: rage < L: rabies "savageness," "rage," "madness" < rabio "to rave" and "to be mad." Denoting violent anger and fury-of the natural world as well as humans-"rage" was once also used of poetic, prophetic, or musical inspiration, as well as heroic spirit and valiant indignation. In modern colloquial use in Australia and New Zealand, it also means "party." 20th C.

Ragna Y Originally a short form of girls' names beginning Ragn- such as RAGNHILD, Ragna was in independent use even in Viking times, though fell out of use in the Middle Ages. Revived late 19th C.

Ragnar d' Scandinavian form of RAINER. Ragnar Lothbrok was a semi-legendary ninth-century Viking, associated with Reedham in Norfolk, England. The name is almost certainly the inspiration for Ragnor, used by Tolkien for a companion of Beren in The Silmarillion.

Ragnborg 2 Old Norse name-regin "might" or "counsel" + borg "fortress." Sw: Ramborg.

Ragnelle Y Almost certainly a variant of RAGNHILD, Ragnelle features in the fifteenth-century "The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle." Ragnelle, who appears to be an old hag, has the power to heal King Arthur, but in order to do so, she demands that Gawain marry her. The court is appalled, but to save his king, Gawain agrees, and treats her with every courtesy. In some versions, she offers him a choice; she can actually be a beautiful maiden, but only by day or by night. Gawain must choose which. He returns the choice to her, and declares that he'll still marry her, whatever she chooses-thus breaking the spell. Ragnelle-upon whom an enchantment had been placed-transforms back into a fair maiden, and the two live happily ever after. This is quite reminiscent of the much older myth of Niall of the Nine Hostages, whose encounter at the well with a hag, who demands a kiss as payment for water, leads to him becoming High King of Ireland. Var: Ragnell.

Ragnhild 2 Modern Scandinavian form of Old German Raginhild-regin "might" or "counsel" + hildr "battle." Both Ragnhild and Ragnhildr were favorite names among the Vikings, and Ragnhild was in use across England in the Middle Ages, giving rise to the surname Ragnell. Var: Ragnild, Ragnilda. Ir: Ragnall, Jr Ga: Raghnaillt, Sc Ga: Raghnaid, Raonaid, W: Rhagnell, Ragnell, Rainillt, Rhanillt. Ger: Reinhild, Reinhilde.

Rahman c~ Arabic name-rahman "merciful." One of the titles of Allah.

Rai c~ Romani: rai "gentleman" < San: RAJ. It is frequently Anglicized as Rye. Rai also means "rye" in Maori, "to celebrate" in Malay, "paradise" in Romanian, "thunder" in Japanese, "prosperity," "energy," "mind," "heart," and "life" in Hausa-yet, paradoxically, in Ainu, it means "death."

Raijin c~ The Japanese God of thunder. Jp: rai "thunder" + jin "(a) God." Var: Raiden-rai + den "(flash of) lightning."

Rain Y c? Originally a variant of RAINE, in the latter twentieth century, it is often treated as an adoption of "rain," often in combinations such as Summer Rain. OE: hr&gn, regn "rain." Most Pagans value rain for its life-giving power, and respect it as a powerful force of Nature, capable of great destruction as well as great good. In the Pagan past, a great deal of effort and ritual went into propitiating Gods of rain to ensure that the balance was

just right between ensuring enough rain fell to make the crops grow strong and healthy, but not too much to lead to crop failure and floods. Var: Rainy.

Rainbird c~ 2 English surname, derived from Old German Reginberht-regin "might" or "counsel" + berht. It was introduced into Britain by the Normans in forms such as Rainbert and Reinbert, and it saw moderate use in the Middle Ages, giving rise to the surname. First used in the nineteenth century, since the late 1960s, use seems to have shifted to "rainbird"-RAIN + BIRD-the name of a bird. In the sixteenth century, this was used of the green woodpecker-so dubbed because it was believed to be a common herald of rain. Later, it was extended to various members of the cuckoo family across the world, all of which are considered harbingers of bad weather, such as the African whitebrowed coucal, whose call sounds like water pouring from a bottle.

Rainbow ? c~ As a surname, Rainbow is not simply an adoption of the word "rainbow." It is also a medieval variant of the Old German name Reginbald-regin "might" or "counsel" + bald "bold." This was introduced into Britain by the Normans in forms such as Rainbald, Rainbault, Raimbault, and Raimbaut, and went on to flourish in a number of other forms such as Reinbald and Renbald, with the word "rainbow" developing by the fifteenth century. Only towards the end of the nineteenth century was it clear that the word "rainbow" itself was starting to be used, an example being a little girl called Rainbow Rose, whose birth was registered in 1886. Rainbow is composed of RAIN + "bow"-used in its earlier sense of "arc." The beauty and novelty of the rainbow has ensured its place in the mythology of most peoples. It often features as a pathway between worlds; to the Norse it was Bifrost, the bridge between Asgard and Midgard. In China, it was believed to be a crack in the firmament fixed by the Goddess Huwa with stones of different colors. One of the most famous myths about rainbows is the Irish one that leprechauns hide their crocks of gold at the rainbow's end. It is famous also as the symbol the God Yahweh placed in the sky to show that he would never destroy the human race by flooding again. In the earlier Semitic version of the story-as told in The Epic of Gilgamesh-the rainbow is the "jeweled necklace of the Great Mother Ishtar," placed in the sky as a promise she will not forget the great flood which destroyed her children. Bearers: Sally Rainbow, a legendary

Hertfordshire Witch who lived in a chalk cave near Datchworth, which was later used as a hideout by the eighteenth century highwayman Dick Turpin.

Rainer c~ Introduced by the Normans, Rainer is an Old French form of Medieval German Reginar, itself a form of Old German Raginhari-regin "might" or "counsel" + heri "army." The Old Norse cognate was Ragnarr. The name was used in the Middle Ages, and led to surnames such as Rayner, Rainer, and Renner, but it had all but died out by the fifteenth century. Although etymologically unrelated, the "April Rainers" feature in the English folk-song "Green Grow the Rushes, O!" "They are the Hyades, which were called the rainy Hyades even in ancient times; rising as they do with the sun in April, they were considered to be the heralds of the start of the April rains. Var: Raganhar, Reiner, Reyner. Ger: Rainer, Scand: RAGNAR, Fr: Rainier, It: Raniero.

Rainsey c Khmer name-rea./say "ray of light," "ray of sunshine," and "brilliance."

Rais c' Arabic name-rai "leader," "chief," and "president."

Raisa Y Principally, Raisa is a Russian girl's name. In the ESW, it is most familiar as the name of the late wife of the former Russian president Mikhail Gorbachev. The name's origins are cloudy. Efforts have been made to derive it from Gr: rhadios "easy" through its comparative form rhaion "easier," but this seems very forced. It is more likely simply an adoption of the Yiddish Raisa, a variant spelling of Raitza < L: rasa "rose." There is also the Lithuanian name Rasa Lith: rasa "dew"-which could be its source. The Arabic Raisa-feminine of RAIS-is almost certainly unrelated.

Raj cc' Indian name. San: raja "king."

Rajana 2 Indian name. San: rajana "silver."

Rajani Y Indian name. San: rajani "night." One of the names of Durga, wife of Shiva.

Rajanikant ' Indian name. San: rajani "night" + kanta "loved," "dear," and "desired"-thus "the beloved of the night." An epithet of the moon.

Rajendra cc' Indian name. San: raja "king" + INDRA. Var: Rajinder.

Rajkumar cc Indian name. San: raja "king" + kumara "son."

Rajnish cc Indian name. San: raja "king" + nisa "night," Var: Rajneesh. Acharya Rajneesh and Bhagwen Shree Rajneesh were two of the names borne by the Indian mystical teacher Osho (1931-90).

Rakesh c~ Indian name. San: raka "full moon" + isa "master" and "lord."

Rala Y Rala Rwdins is a Witch in a series of Welsh children's books by Angharad Tomos.

Raleigh c~ English surname, deriving from Raleigh in Devon or Rayleigh in Essex. OE: rcege "female roe-deer" or "she-goats" + leah. Some use has been in honor of the British explorer and poet Sir Walter Raleigh (c.1552-1618).

Ralph e Old Norse: RaOulfr-rdo "counsel" + ulfr "wolf," cognate with Old English Rxdwulf. It was a popular Viking name, becoming first RADULF and then RALF. In use in the British Isles before the Norman Conquest, it was reinforced with the arrival of the Normans, amongst whom it was also popular. It gave rise to surnames such as Ralf, Ralphs, Raffles, Ralls, Raves, Raw, Rawles, Rawlin, Rallings, Rawlinson, and Rawson. In America, the name has always been pronounced "RALF." In England, it used to be "RAYF," but nowadays, it is often pronounced the American way. Var: Rafe. Bearers: Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82), the American poet; Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), the English composer; Ralph Fiennes (b. 1962), the British actor. Get, Scand: Ralf, Fr: Raoul, Port: Raul; Cat: Raiil, Sp: Raul.

Rama c? Rama is the hero of the great Sanskrit epic the Ramayana, which dates to between the fourth and eighth centuries BCE. He is considered by Hindus to be an incarnation of Vishnu. San: rama "pleasing," "charming," and "lovely."

Ramachandra cc Indian name. One of the names of Vishnu. San: RAMA + candra "moon."

Ramakrishna Gc Indian name-San: RAMA + KRISHNA.

Ramesses c~ 'The name of a number of Egyptian pharaohs. Egyptian: RA + ms "to bear" + sw "him." It is usually translated as "Ra bore him." Closely related is Ramose-RA + ms "to bear." Var: Rameses, Ramses. Bearers: Walter "Ramses" Emerson, a character in Elizabeth Peters's Amelia Peabody novels (1975-).

Ramiro c~ Spanish name deriving from OG: regin "counsel" or "might" + mari "famous." It was the name of three medieval kings of Leon and two of Aragon. Fem: Ramira.

Ramla 2 Arabic name-ramla "sand." One of the wives of Mohammed.'The word has passed into Swahili where the phrase piga ramli means "to tell the future" through interpreting markings in the sand. Var: Ramlah.

Ramman c~ Epithet of the Babylonian-Assyrian God Adad. It means "thunderer" in Akkadian.'The Aramaic Rimmon, an epithet of Hadad-the western Semitic form of Adad-is its exact cognate.

Ramnath cc' An Indian God, to whom Rama was said to pray before crossing the sea to Sri Lanka to rescue Sita. San: RAMA + natha "lord."

Ramona 2 Feminine of Ramon, the Spanish form of RAYMOND. It has been used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Fr: Raymonde.

Ramsden c~ English surname, deriving from one of two places of the name. OE: hramsa "ramsons" and "wild garlic" + denu "valley." Ramsons-a name which derives from the Old English-are a natural insecticide, as well as an excellent "wild food." 18th C. Var: Ramson. Closely related is Ramsay (var: Ramsey), which, while being another old name for Ramsons, derives from places of the name in England < hramsa + eg "island." Bearers: Ramsey Dukes, pen name of 'Thelemite author Lionel Snell (b. 1945).

Rana 2 Rana is a name with multiple meanings in a number of languages. Principally, it is a traditional Persian girl's name used across the Islamic world meaning "beautiful object" and cognate with San: rana "delight" and

"pleasure." An identical Sanskrit word means "battle," and in some Slavic languages, such as Slovak and Polish, it carries the meaning of "wound" or "sore." In Hausa, it means "sun," while in Latin-and a number of Romance languages-it means "frog." This is the source of the traditional name of the star Delta Eridani in the constellation Eridanus; it was originally Rana Secunda "the second frog" (the "first frog" being Fomalhaut). Lastly, Rana-meaning "the wayward"-is a name given by Noldor elves to the moon in Quenya.

Rand Gc In some cases, Rand is a short form of RANDOLPH or RANDALL. In others, it is an adoption of the surname, deriving in part from the short form of Randolph, and in part from the village of Rand in Lincolnshire. OE: rand "border" or "edge."

Randa ? Randa is principally an Arabic name, the adoption of the name of a scented desert tree. In the ESW, it is also used as a short form of MIRANDA.

Randall cc Although Randal is a name found from the Middle Ages, Randall's use since the sixteenth century largely represents an adoption of the surname which derived from it. Randal was originally either a variant of RANDOLPH, or a diminutive of RAND + dim. suffix -el. Dim: RANDY, Randie, Rand. Bearers: Randall Flagg, a character who appears in a number of novels by Stephen King, such as *The Stand* (1978) and *The Eyes of the Dragon* (1986).

Randolph c~ Old English: Randawulf-rand "shield" + wulf, cognate with Old Norse Ran\$ulfr. Var: Randulph, Randolf, Randulf. Dim: RANDY, Randie, RAND. Bearers: Lord Randolph Churchill (1849-95), the British statesman, father of Sir Winston Churchill; Randolph Henry Ash, a poet in A. S. Byatt's *Possession* (1990).

Randy c~ Y Originally a pet-form of RANDOLPH and RANDALL, Randy has been used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century. As a girl's name, it seems to be simply an adoption of the boy's name. It has been suggested that it started out as a short form of Miranda, but Miranda was far rarer in America at the time when Randy came into use and was most

popular. Randy has never seen much use in Britain, because of the British English adjective "randy" meaning "lustful." Var: Randi Y.

Ranger c~ An English surname, derived from RAINER. 19th C. Recent use is more likely to be an adoption of "ranger," which originally meant "forester" or "gamekeeper," and now tends to be used of a warden of a state park or forest. In Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, the Rangers of the North are all that is left of the Dunedain-the "Men of the West"-living in the North of Middle Earth.

Rangzen e Y Tibetan: rang btsan "freedom" and "independence" < rang "-self" "-hood" and "natural" + btsan "power," "force," "strong," "king," "lord"; it is also the name of class of spirits, which are powerful ghosts of hunting, and travel through the sky.

Rani Y Indian name. San: rani "queen."

Raniya Y Arabic name-rand "to gaze" and "to stare." Var: Ranya. In Quenya, ranya means "stray" or "wander."

Ransom c Ransom's use-which may date as early as the seventeenth century-is an adoption of the surname meaning "son of RAND."The word "ransom" derives from AngloNorman: rancun < L: redemptio "a buying back."

Ranulph c~ Long confused with RANDOLPH, Ranulph is in fact a separate name, deriving from OG: hraben "raven" + wolfa "wolf." It was taken to Britain by the Normans. Var: Ranulf. Bearers: Sir Ranulph Fiennes (b. 1944), the British explorer.

Raphael c~ The Archangel, closely linked with Michael and Gabriel. Heb: "(a) God has healed." 16th C. Var: Rafael. Port, Sp: Rafael, Fr: Raphael, It: Raffaele, Raffaello, Pol: Rafal. Bearers: Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino (1483-1520), the Italian artist Raphael; Raphael Holinshed (1529-80), the Tudor writer known for his Chronicles (1577).

Raphaela 2 Feminine form of RAPHAEL. 18th C. Cat, Port: Rafaela, Ger: Raffaella, It: Raffaella, Fr: Raphaëlle.

Rapunzel 2 The fairy-tale "Rapunzel" was first recorded by the Brothers Grimm in 1812; Disney's Tangled (2010) is the most recent retelling of the tale. Rapunzel received her name from the plant her mother saw growing in a Witch's garden. The mother had such a craving for it that she even traded her baby daughter to get some. The name is taken from Rapunzel-Glockenblume, the German name for *Campanula rapunculus*-a type of bellflower called rampion in English. It derives from L: *rapunculus* "little turnip." Although considered a wildflower at the time the story was written down, there is evidence that the root was once eaten as a vegetable. Mid-20th C.

Raquel Y Spanish form of RACHEL, used in the ESW since the early twentieth century. Var: Raquelle. Bearers: Raquel Welch (b. 1940), the American actress; Raquel Trotter, a character in the British sitcom Only Fools and Horses (1981-2003).

Rara Y Latin: *rarus* "rare," "scarce," "remarkable" although, its original meanings were "of a loose texture," "thin," and "scattered." In English, it is best known in the expression *rara avis*- "rare bird"-used of anything or anyone who is extraordinary. Rara is also the name of a remote and serenely beautiful lake in Nepal, and an annual Haitian street festival, held about the same time as Christian Lent. 19th C.

Rarias Y Epithet of Demeter, taken from Ration, the name of the plains around Eleusis, which was the centre of her worship in Greece. Ancient tradition had it that the plains took their name from *Rarus*, a minor figure in Greek mythology. His claim to fame was as the father of Triptolemus, the inventor of the plough and the first man to till the earth ... in some versions, anyway. In reality, *Rarus* is almost certainly a later creation to explain the name of the plain the meaning of which is unknown. Both Rarias and *Rarus* are rare examples of an initial "r" in Greek with a smooth breathing- i.e. it should not be transliterated into English with an "h" after it. Nonetheless, the variants Rharias and Rharus are encountered.

Rasalas e The traditional name of the star Mu Leonis in Leo. Its full Arabic name is *ra's al-'asad as-samali*, meaning "the head of the lion, the northern (one)." It is also known as *Alshemali*, which derives from the latter part of its full name. "The head of the lion, the southern (one)"-in Arabic *rd's al-*

'asad al-janubi-is Epsilon Leonis, which goes by the traditional name of Ras Elased.

Rascal e Y Anglo-Norman: rascaile < MF: *rasquer "to scrape," cognate with Sp: rascare. In the fourteenth century, "rascal" was used in a collective sense to describe the lowest social order in society, and thus "rabble" or "mob." In the early fifteenth century, it acquired the sense of "rogue" or "scoundrel," and it came to mean a mischievous or cheeky person, especially a man or child, in the early seventeenth century. 20th C.

Rashawn e Either a blend of RASHID and Shawn (see Sean), or simply the attachment of the prefix Ra- to Shawn. The first occurrences are in the early 1960s, when Rashid was rare as a name bestowed at birth in America, although it may be that it was in wider use among converts to Islam. Var: Rashaun.

Rashid c~ Arabic name-rashid "rightly guided." One of the titles of Mohammed. Var: Rachid, Rasheed. Fem: Rashida, Rasheeda.

Raspberry Y cc For some peculiar reason, conspicuously naming children after fruit is frowned on by the Establishment. Why people object to a name which conveys the sense of something sweet, fragrant, nutritious, and which epitomizes high summer and the bounty of Nature, while in the same breath advocating names with no meaning at all or downright unpleasant ones, is symptomatic of the warped attitude to names and naming practices we currently have in the West. As a given name, Raspberry has been in use since the nineteenth century, though some of this may be related to the rare surname which derives from Ratsbury in Devon. An early example is Raspberry Tufts, whose birth was recorded in Mitford, Norfolk, England, in 1840. The word "raspberry" itself comes from a combination of ME: rasp (an older name for the fruit) + BERRY. Where "rasp" comes from is unknown; it is possibly connected to rubus, the Latin name for the plant < ruber "red."

Rassamee Y Thai name-ratsami "ray of light," "brilliance," "glow," and "fame."

Rasselas a' The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia (1759) was a novel by Samuel Johnson, which was very influential in its day. The name seems to derive from the Amharic name Ras Selas Christos. Amharic: ras "prince" + selas "portrait" + Christos "Christ." It was the name of an Ethiopian prince discussed in a work called A Voyage to Abyssinia by Jeronimo Lobo, which Johnson translated from the French in 1735. 19th C.

Rastaban c~ Traditional name of Beta Draconis in the constellation Draco, deriving from the Arabic ra's aththu'ban "head of the snake." It is also known as Alwaid, which is often interpreted as meaning "the one who is to be destroyed," but could instead be from al-awwad meaning "the lute player" or even al-awa'id, meaning "the mother camels," a reference to the cluster of stars usually considered to be the head of the dragon that is the constellation Draco. Bearers: Rastaban Lestrage, a Wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Ratchanee Y Thai name-ratchani "darkness" and "nighttime."

Rathnait Y Irish Gaelic girl's name-rath "success" and "prosperity" or rdth "ring-fort" + fem. dim. suffix -nait.

Rati Y Indian name. San: rati "love," "delight," "love potion," "sexual pleasure," and "(the act of) sex."

Rattlesnake cc A type of poisonous snake, known for the rattling noise it makes with its tail as a warning. Late 19th C.

Ratna ? Indian name. San: ratna "precious" and "jewel." Its resemblance to Ratner's-the name of the defunct cut-price British jewelry chain-is coincidental. Masc: Ratan.

Ratri 2 The Hindu Goddess of the night; sister to Ushas, Goddess of the Dawn. San: ratri "night"-a word which also refers to the night's darkness and stillness.

Rauha Y Finnish name-rauha "peace," "quiet," and "calmness."

Rauni Y Finnish Goddess of fertility, closely associated with the rowan tree.

Ravan Y Persian name-raven "spirit."

Raven Y cc The raven is of immense symbolic and mythological importance. It is particularly closely linked to Bran, whose name means "raven." In Norse mythology, the ravens Huginn and Muninn are associated with Odin, and were depicted on Viking banners. Their names derive from ON: hugr "thought" and munr "memory." The famous ravens of the Tower of London are there because Bran's head is buried beneath the White Tower; the legend goes that Britain will never be conquered while there are ravens at the Tower, emphasizing the fact that the raven is a bird whose pres-

ence invokes protection. To many Christians, however, the bird, with its strong associations of death, is sinister-and there was a time when it was persecuted almost to the point of extinction. But to Pagans, the raven's associations with death serve only to remind us of the ever-turning wheel of life, death, and rebirth, a motif which is found in myth. In Beowulf, it is the raven who heralds the new day after Beowulf's victory, while in some versions of the Arthurian Cycles, King Arthur is said to be reincarnated as the raven. Its connections with death-and thus the Otherworld-also make the raven a bird of prophecy. To many Native Americans, the raven is closely linked with magic, and considered the bringer of magic. Black is not a color of evil in Native American traditions-it is the color of the void, where all the energy of the creative source is found. Unfortunately, in some Pagan circles, Raven as a given name has almost become a joke, considered the classic choice of Craft name for the newto-Wicca teenage "fluffy bunny." This is a shame, as, leaving aside all of Raven's associations and depth of meaning, it actually has really rather a long and distinguished history as a name. The Romans were using their word for raven-corvus-as a surname over two thousand years ago, while Old Norse Hrafn and Old English Hranfn were both used as given names before the arrival of the Normans; they were in part responsible for the development of the surname Raven. Not to mention Bran, of course. Meanwhile, Ger: hraben features in a number of names including BERTRAM and RANULF. Raven returned as

a given name in the early eighteenth century-possibly earlier-as an adoption of the surname. Var: Rayvon, Rayven, Ravyn, Raeven (mod). Bearers: Raven Grimassi (b. 1951), the American Pagan author specializing in Stregheria.

Ravenilda Y Latin form of Old Norse Hrafnhildr- "battle raven." It survived the Norman Conquest in forms such as Rauenilde and Ravenild long enough to originate the surname Ravenhill.

Ravenna 2 An Italian city on the Adriatic, capital of the Roman Empire for much of the fifth century. The etymology is unclear, and it is probable the name has a non-Latin root, though it may possibly be cognate with L: rāvus "greyyellow"-perhaps referring to the color of the local stone. Ravenna was the setting of Thomas Middleton's tragicomedy The Witch (1616). 20th C.

Ravenwolf Y cc Combining RAVEN + WOLF, Ravenwolf is a translation into Modern English of RANULF. Bearers: Silver Ravenwolf (see Silver). 20th C.

Ravi a' Indian name. San: ravi "sun."

Ravindra a' Indian name. San: ravi "sun" + INDRA. Var: Ravinder, Ravendra.

Rawnie y Romani: rawnie "lady" < San: rani "queen." Var: Reni.

Ray c' Y Ray originated as a short form of RAYMOND and RACHEL. Used independently since the nineteenth century. In the minds of many users, English "ray" will have been in their minds, with all its connotations of light and sunshine. Anglo-Norman: rae < L: radius "staff" or "rod." It was also used of the spoke of a wheel as well as of a ray or beam of light. Ray is also an old word for the plant dandelion, a medieval word for "king," and a type of round dance popular in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Var: Rae. Bearers: Ray Charles (1930-2004), the American musician; Rae Beth, a British Witch, well-known for her books on Hedge Witchcraft.

Raya Y Indian name. San: raya "current" or "stream." Raya is also used in Bulgaria as a short form of Rayna-the Bulgarian equivalent of REGINA, while in Russia it is sometimes treated as a variant of RAISA.

Raylene Y Elaboration of RAY with the suffix -lene.'The coinage dates from the 1920s, and has seen most use in Australia. Var: Raelene, Raelynn, Raelyn, Rayleen, Raeleen.

Raymond a' Old German: Raginmund-regin "counsel" or "might" + mund "protection." It was introduced by the Normans. Var: Raimund, Reimund, Reimond, Reyemond, Riment (hist). Dim: RAY. It: Raimondo, Dut, Ger: Raimund, Port: Raimundo, Sp: Ramon, Fr: Raymond, It Ga: REAMONN, Reamann. Bearers: Raymond Buckland (b. 1934), the prominent American Wiccan writer, credited with introducing Wicca to America.

Razor e Anglo-Norman: rasur < Late L: rasorium "instrument for shaving" < rado "to scrape" or "to shave." Exceptionally sharp by necessity, this quality has become firmly attached to the word, ensuring its transferred use to anything sharp, including surfaces (razor-edged), quickness of wit (razor-tongued), and intellectual ability (razor-keen). 20th C.

Razzle Y ' "Razzle" comes from "razzle-dazzle," an expression in use since the late nineteenth century to describe an energetic, elaborate, and distracting commotion, particularly a boisterous celebration or a spectacular-perhaps ostentatious-display of some kind. It is thought to have evolved from DAZZLE. Late 20th C.

Rea Y Essentially, a variant spelling of RHEA, the word rea happens to mean, among other things, "clear," "sleek," "steady," and "male sheep" in Manx, and "incense" in Swahili.

Reagan 2 Anglicized form of Irish surname O Riagain "Descendant of Riagan." Riagan < Jr Ga: ri "king" + dim. suffix -kn. Var: Rioghan. Since the late twentieth century, Reagan has come into general use for girls. This may have been inspired by the Shakespearian name Regan, (essentially cognate) despite the fact that this character is one of literature's nastiest. Bearers: Regan Teresa McNeil, the possessed girl in William Peter Blatty's Exorcist (1971).

Reamonn c~ Irish Gaelic form of RAYMOND. It is sometimes rendered in English with Redmond-the surname which derives from it. 16th C. Var: Reamann (Ir Ga); Redmund.

Reasmey Y ' Khmer name-reasmay "light" and "ray of light."

Rebecca Y Usual English form of the biblical name Rebekah, traditionally said to mean "heifer" in Hebrew.'This etymology sits on shaky foundations, however. The name is quite possibly not Hebrew at all, deriving instead from another Semitic language. It has been linked to the Semitic root r-b-q meaning "to tie" or "to join." 16th C. Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca (1938) did much to inject life back into the name in the twentieth century. Dim: Becky; Becca, Beck, Bex, Beca, Becka, Beckah, Bekki (mod).Var: Rebeccah, Rebecka, Rebeckah. Get, Dut, Nor: Rebekka, Fr: Rebecca, Sp, Port: Rebeca. Bearers: Rebecca Nurse (1621-1692), a victim of the Salem Witch trials; Rebecca Eames (c. 1640-1721), another of the accused at Salem, who was condemned but reprieved before her execution was carried out; Jane Rebecca Yorke (1872-1953), the last person in England to be convicted under the 1735 Witchcraft Act in 1944; Rebecca of York, the Jewish healer tried and convicted for Witchcraft in Walter Scott's Ivanhoe (1819).

Rebel a' 2 Adoption of the English "rebel" as a given name in the twentieth century. L: rebellis "rebellious" < rebello "to rebel."

Rebus e "Rebus"-meaning "with things" in Latin-is principally used to describe a cryptic representation of a word or phrase using pictures, symbols, and letters. It dates to the seventeenth century. In heraldry, the term is also used of an image which illustrates the surname, such as the broken spear on the coat of arms of Nicholas Breakspear (better known as Pope Adrian IV).The surname Rebus is of uncertain origin; it seems to be a Latinized form of the Polish, Czech, and Slovak surname Ryba, meaning "fish." 19th C. Ian Rankin's Inspector Rebus novels (1987-2007) have made the name more familiar in recent times.

Recital Y ci Originally used of any kind of narration, account or discourse, "recital" is used today largely to mean performances of poetry and pieces of

music. L: recito "to read out" and "to recite," used specifically of literary works.

Red cc Y Red has been used as a given name since the early twentieth century, largely as a middle name. The word derives from a root meaning red which goes all the way back to PIE: *(h1)rewdh "red." Red has long been a symbol of fire and blood-and because of this, it is symbolic of those emotions thought to "stir the blood," such as love and anger. Perhaps because blood is regarded as a pollutant in many cultures, it also has acquired association with "sin"-hence the notion of a "scarlet woman," and the use of the "scarlet letter" in Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1850 novel of the name as a symbol of Hester's "sin." Christians usually portray their devils and demons as red, partly because of the color's association with sin, and partly, no doubt, due to their notion of their fiery hell dwellings. However, the shedding of blood is also symbolic of the self-sacrifice made by warriors, thus the color red has taken on this symbolism too, along with the courage that goes along with it. Its association with war is cemented by the fact that Mars-the planet of the Roman God of war-is also red. And-simply because of its brightness-it has become the color of warning. In some traditions because red is the color of fire, and fire is the color of the direction of south, and both have positive connotations-it is associated with good luck. This is especially true in China, where it is also associated with fertility and success. Red is the traditional bridal color in both China and India, while in Ancient Rome, brides also wore a "flame-colored" veil, generally understood to be red. "Little Red Riding Hood" is a traditional European fairy-tale, first written down by Charles Perrault in 1697. Var: Redd.

Rede 2 Archaic English word meaning "advice" and "counsel." OE: reed. As a variant of REED, it has been in use since the nineteenth century.

Redon c~ A legendary king of Britain, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth. It is almost certainly a corruption of RHYDIAN.

Redvers (English surname, deriving from what is now Revers in Normandy < OF: riviere "river." The general adoption of Redvers as a given name can be pinned down exactly to a single individual. Sir Redvers Buller (1839-1908) was a British general, who made a name for himself during

the Zulu War (1879) and the First Boer War (1881). During the 1880s and most of the '90s, there was a trickle of use of the name, but mostly it dates from 1899 and the outbreak of the Second Boer War. Buller was the general responsible for the Relief of Ladysmith, which was considered a huge victory and was much celebrated. In 1898, only two children were called Redvers; in 1899 this had shot up to 238, and in 1900 an extraordinary 4,831 little boys acquired the name Redvers as their first or middle name. By the start of the First World War, however, it had virtually fallen out of use altogether. It is barely known at all outside Britain and the British Commonwealth.

Redwald c~ An early seventh-century king of East Anglia, who is identified with the high status individual interred in the famous ship-burial at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk. OE: Raedwald-ried "counsel" + weald "power." Although the AngloSaxon Chronicles state that Redwald converted to Christianity, his tomb is most definitely that of a Pagan prince, and demonstrates rather clearly that for many of these early converts, conversion was politically motivated and only nominal.

Reece a Y Adoption of the Welsh surname, derived from RHYS. It has been used as a given name since the seventeenth century, but is now largely treated as an alternative spelling of Rhys. Var: Rees, Reese-the latter popularized as a girl's name since 2000, due to the American actress (Laura Jeanne) Reese Witherspoon (b. 1976).

Reed cc British surname. OE: read "red," ried "clearing," and places called Read, Rede, or Reed, which derive from ried.'The word "reed" comes from OE: hreod "reed." For millennia, the reed has been valued for its many practical uses, for baskets, mats, and thatch, etc. Reeds have also been used in instruments for thousands of years; the Chinese he and yu reed instruments date back to at least the twelfth century BCE. Egyptian papyrus reed was used to make the first ever type of paper-papyrus-from which the word "paper" derives.'The papyrus reed was also used in ancient times to make boats. 16th C. Var: Read, Reade, REDE; Reid (Sc).

Reeve cc English surname. OE: refa "reeve." In AngloSaxon times, this referred to a high-rank official, in particular the chief royal representative in a shire, who was later called a sheriff. In time, it came to mean any

official, including the steward or bailiff of an estate. 18th C. Var: Reef-as a word, "reef" is used of a section of sail as well as a ridge of rock in the sea.

Regency ? A term used of any period when a kingdom is ruled by a REGENT. In the ESW, it refers specifically to the Regency of George, Prince of Wales, from 1811-20, although in art, architecture, culture, and fashion, the term tends to be used to cover c. 1795-1830, corresponding to the French "Empire" and American "Federal." 20th C.

Regent a Latin: regens "ruling" < rego "to direct" and "to guide." Used since the fifteenth century as a title for someone who rules in the place of a king or queen during their minority, absence, or incapacity. Its use as a given name dates largely from 1811, after George, Prince of Wales was made Prince Regent.

Regina y Latin: regina "queen." Used as a name in France in the Middle Ages, perhaps in honor of the Virgin Mary as "Queen of Heaven"-a title once borne by the Goddess Isis. There is also an alleged third-century saint of the name. Regina, and the contracted form Reina, may have been used in Britain in the period too, but did not take root. It continued in use on the continent, however, and was revived in the ESW in the nineteenth century. Fr: REINE.

Reginald e Fifteenth-century variant of REYNOLD. It seems to have been a deliberate back-formation from Reginaldus, the Latin form of Reynold. Revived 19th C. Dim: Reg, Reggie, Reggy, REX. Bearers: Reginald Scot (c. 1538-99), the English author of *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* (1584), which attempted to demonstrate that Witchcraft as described by its early modern detractors-did not exist. Written in the context of the Witch trials, it focused principally on debunking the notions of Witchcraft at the time, and one of his stated goals was to expose "the lewde unchristian practices of Witchmongers upon aged, melancholy, ignorant, and superstitious people in extorting confessions by inhumane terrors and tortures."

Reginleif 2 One of the Valkyrie. OG: regin "counsel" or "might" + leifr "heir" or "descendant."

Regius a' Latin: regius "royal" < rex "king." It is most familiar in British expressions such as "Regius Professor," which designates that a professorial chair was originally a royal appointment. 19th C. Fem: Regia.

Regulus ' Latin: regulus "little king" < rex "king." The popular name of Alpha Leonis, the brightest star in Leo. It is the closest of all the stars to the ecliptic, meaning that it is often occluded by the moon. Its Arabic name is Kabeled- ga1b al-'asad "the heart of the Lion." In Persian astronomy, Regulus-called Venant-is one of the four "royal stars"; it presides over the Summer Solstice, and is the Watcher of the South. Bearers: Regulus Black, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Rehema Y Swahili: rehema "sympathy," "pity," "mercy," "compassion," and "generosity."

Rei Y c~ Japanese name-depending on the kanji used, it can mean "beautiful," "charming," "brilliant," and "flowery"; "sound of jewels," "clear" or "bright"; "wise" and "intelligent"; "etiquette," "gratitude," "renown"; "soul" and "spirit."The girl's name Reiko combines one of these elements + ko "child."

Reiki c~ Y A method of healing developed by Mikao Usai in the mid-20th C. Jp: rei "soul," "spirit" + ki "spirit," "mind" and "air." In the Gothic language, reiki meant "ruler" and "authority," cognate with OE: ric.

Reine Y Traditional French form of REGINA. Fr: reine "queen."The diminutive form Reinette "little queen" was the nickname of Madame de Pompadour (1721-64). It was bestowed upon her by her mother at the age of nine because a fortune teller had told her that one day she would rule the heart of a king. Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Var: Regine.

Reka 2 Hungarian name. It is said to have been the name of Attila the Hun's favorite wife. The etymology is very uncertain, especially as the exact nature of the language spoken by the Huns is not known for certain.'There is an outside chance it is related to the Turkish girl's name Arikan. Turk: art "pure" + kan "blood," "family," and "lineage."

Relic c~ 2 Latin: reliquiae "remains" and "remnants"-in particular the remains or relics of the dead. In the Christian period, it took on the meaning "sacred relics" of a saint or martyr. In modern usage, the term "relic" has come to have a broader meaning, being used of any object of interest and value due to its age or historic associations-and, by extension, anything surviving from an earlier age. Colloquially, it is also used of an old person or thing exhibiting the characteristics of a former time. 20th C.

Reliquary 2 c~ The name of a casket for sacred relics. In the Middle Ages, these were often exquisitely made from expensive materials, and are now "relics" themselves of medieval art.

Rembrandt a Old German: regin "counsel" or "might" + brant "fire-brand," the name of one of Holland's most famous painters, Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606-69). Its use in the ESW since the nineteenth century has largely been in his honor.

Remedios Y Spanish name taken from the title of the Virgin Mary-Nuestra Senora de los Remedios "Our Lady of the Remedies." Sp: remedio "remedy," "help" and "comfort" < L: remedium "that which restores to health," "cure," and "remedy." Remedy has been used since the nineteenth century.

Remembrance ? a Anglo-Norman: remembraunce "memory" and "recollection" < L: memoro "to call to mind." 16th C.

Remington e English surname, from Rimington in Lancashire. OE: rima "boundary" + ing "stream" + tun. 19th C. The American television series Remington Steele (1982-87), popularized the name in the 1980s. In Britain, it is very much associated with the razor manufacturer.

Remus c~ Romulus and Remus, said to have been suckled by a she-wolf as babies, were the twin sons of Rhea Silvia by the God Mars. Roman legend said that they founded the city of Rome in 753 BCE. Unfortunately, the brothers quickly fell out over which of them should give their name to their new city; Romulus settled the matter by killing Remus. In fact, both of the brothers' names derive from ROME, rather than the other way around, and have been used since the early eighteenth century. Uncle Remus: His Songs

and His Sayings (1881), by Joel Chandler Harris was once very popular, and while some of the stories within the book remain popular in the re-telling (such as Br'er Rabbit), the original book is now regarded very much a thing of its time. Bearers: Remus Lupin, a wizard and werewolf in the Harry Potter series. It, Port, Sp: Remo.

Remy c' French name from Latin Remigius < remex "rower." It was borne by a Frankish saint and a number of other notable early Frenchmen. Bearers: Nicholas Remy (1530-1616), a French Witch hunter, who claimed to be responsible for the deaths of over nine hundred victims in Witch trials held during the 1580s and early 1590s.

Ren c~ 2 Japanese name-depending on the kanji used, it can mean "lotus," "romance," "in love," "darling," "love," or "ripples."

Renaissance 2 cc Adoption of the term meaning "rebirth," which is used to describe the artistic and cultural revolution in the late Middle Ages and early modern period. It began in Italy, and was considered the rebirth of Roman civilizationhence the name. 20th C.

Renatus e Latin: renatus "born again"-the original sense was of reincarnation and the annual rebirth of vegetation. Only in the Christian period did it come to mean "born again" in the Christian sense. A fifth-century saint of the name accounts for its popularity in the Catholic world. Renatus wasn't used in the ESW, however, until the sixteenth century, when it was adopted by the Puritans straight from the Latin. Fem: Renata. It: Renato, Fr: Rene.

Renee Y French form of Renata (see Renatus). Used in the ESW since the end of the nineteenth century-possibly inspired by Reenie, the popular pet-form of Irene and Doreen. Var: Renee, Renae, Renay, Renaye, Renae. It, Pol, Port, Sp: Renata. Dut, Ger: Renate.

Renfred c Old German: Raganfrid-regin "counsel" and "might" +frithu "peace." Introduced by the Normans.Though rare after the fifteenth century, it continued in use here and there-especially in Cornwall. Var: Reynfrey, Remfrey, Renfry, Renfree.

Renshu a' Chinese name. Mand: ren "humane"; ren "responsibility" + shu "forgive."

Reseda Y Latin name for mignonette and dyer's weed. It was first recorded by the Roman writer Pliny the Elder, who said it was the imperative of the verb resedo "to allay" or "assuage," adopted because "reseda morbis.r" was uttered as an incantation by those using the plant to reduce a tumor.

Resolute c~ Y Deriving from L: resolvo "to untie" and "to release," "resolute" originally meant "dissolved" and "soft ened." It came to mean "determined" in the sixteenth century. Late 20th C.

Reuben c' Biblical name with the traditional etymology of "behold, a son!" < Heb: ra'ah "to see," "to look," and "to inspect" + ben "son." Reuben, one of the sons of Jacob, gave his name to one of the twelve tribes of Israel. 16th C. Var: Ruben. Dut, Scand: Ruben, Sp: Ruben. Bearers: Reuben Aldrich, a character in Kelley Armstrong's Women of the Otherworld series.

Reuel e Biblical name. Heb: "friend of (a) God." 17th C. Var: Raguel. According to the Kabbalah, Raguel is also the name of one of the seven archangels, and it features as such in Neil Gaiman's Books of Magic (1990). Bearers: John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892-1973), the South African-born English writer and professor.

Rive e Y French: rive "dream." Le Rive is the name of a novel by Emile Zola published in 1888, and a 1932 painting by Pablo Picasso. 20th C.

Revel cc Y The word "revel," meaning "a period of merrymaking," came into the English language in the twelfth century < MF: revel "merriment" < reveler "to make merry" < L: rebello "to rebel." It gave rise to a surname (one Paganus revellus is recorded in 1130), and Revel and its variant Revell are found bestowed as a given names on boys from the seventeenth century. Use in recent years is likely to be a direct adoption of the noun.

Revelry cc Y The Oxford English Dictionary describes revelry as "boisterous mirth or merrymaking; lively entertainments; wild or noisy

festivals, especially those involving drinking," which pretty much sums it up. It derives from REVEL.

Reverie Y g The English word "reverie" is a fourteenth-century adoption of the identical Old French word. It originally meant "rejoicing," "revelry," and even "wantonness," "wildness," and "rage." In the seventeenth century, it came to mean "a fantastic and impractical theory or idea," and only in the latter half of that century took on its modern meaning of "daydream" and the state of being lost in thought. In the words of Victor Hugo, "'Thought is the labor of the intellect, reverie is its pleasure.'" Early 20th C.

Rex c~ Latin: rex "king." Sometimes used as a short form of REGINALD. 18th C. Bearers: Sir Reginald "Rex" Harrison (1908-90), the British actor.

Rexanne Y A name coined in the 1930s as a combination of REX + ANN or a blend of Rex and ROXANNE.

Reyhan 2 Turkish name-reyhan "sweet basil."

Reynard c~ English form of Old German Raganhard- regin "counsel" and "might" + hart "hardy." In Old High German, the name was Reginhart. Reynard has since become a generic term for a fox; a use which dates back to Perrou de Saint Cloude's *Le Roman de Renart* (c. 1175)-a mock epic featuring anthropomorphized animals. Ger: Reinhard, Fr: Renard.

Reynold Old English: Regenweald-regen "might" + weald "power," was reinforced by the Old French cognate Raganald, which was introduced by the Normans in the forms Reinald and Reynaud. Var: Rainald, Reynald (hist); REGINALD. Fr: Reynaud, It: RINALDO, W: Rheinallt, Renallt.

Rhadamanthus ' In Greek mythology, Rhadamanthus was the son of Zeus by Europa. He was a king of Crete, noted for his law-giving and general integrity. After his death, he was made a judge of the Underworld. Gr: rhadios "easy" + manthano "to learn" and "come to know."

Rhael 2 In Welsh mythology, Rhael is the name of the daughter of Gronw and wife of Llywarch Hen. The meaning is very uncertain; it could be CC: *reilo- "bright." 19th C.

Rhain c Y Welsh: rhain "stiff" and "stretched out" (sometimes interpreted as "spear"). The name of a son of the legendary fifth-century Brychan Brycheiniog, and also a ninth-century king of Dyfed. Late 19th C.

Rhamnusia 2 Epithet of the Goddess Nemesis. It derives from Rhamnus, the name of a town in Attica, near Athens, where there was once a temple dedicated to her. Gr: rhamnos-a name bestowed upon various prickly shrubs such as box-thorn, stone buckthorn, and black buckthorn.

Rhapsody Y Greek: rhapsodia "recitation of epic poetry." Later it also came to mean "an epic composition." When "rhapsody" was first used as a word in English, it similarly had the meaning "epic poem," acquiring its modern sense of an instrumental composition "enthusiastic in character" in the late nineteenth century. Mid-20th C.

Rhatany Y ' A shrub with red flowers, which grows on mountain slopes in Peru. The roots are used in Portugal in some port wines, and have a number of medicinal uses, including the treatment of diarrhea and dysentery. As an infusion it is sometimes used to soothe sore throats. Quechua: ratana: "creeping plant."

Rhea y A Titaness, daughter of Uranus and Gaia, who is sometimes called the "Mother of the Gods." Later equated with Cybele, and strongly associated with Gaia, she is the mother of many of the Olympian Gods by Cronus. She also gave her name to a moon of Jupiter, which was discovered in 1672. The etymology is murky; it may be Gr: era "earth" and "ground," roa "pomegranate" or reo "to flow" or "to stream" the latter was considered the source in ancient times. Another important mythical Rhea is Rhea Silvia, the mother of Romulus and Remus, founders of Rome. 18th C. Bearers: Rhea Dubativo of the Coos, a Witch in a number of Stephen King's books, in particular the Dark Tower series (1982-).

Rhedyn ? e Welsh: rhedyn "fern." Late 20th C.

Rhett c~ Anglicized form of the Dutch surname de Raedt, from Middle Dutch: raet "advice" and "counsel." Rhett's use as a given name dates to nineteenth-century South Carolina, where it was first bestowed in honor of the distinguished Rhett family. A prominent bearer was Robert Barnwell

Rhett (1800-76), an American Senator from South Carolina, who supported secession. Most use post-dates its use by Margaret Mitchell for Rhett Butler, the hero of *Gone with the Wind*.

Rhian Y Essentially, Rhian is a short form of RHIANNON, although it is often associated with W: rhiaid "maiden." Late 19th C.

Rhiannon 2 Rhiannon is one of the most important figures in the Mabinogion, the wife of first Pwyll and then Manawydan, and the mother of Pryderi-the Mahon. She is regarded as one of the foremost Goddesses of the Welsh pantheon. Associated with horses, she may be one and the same as Epona and Etain Echraidhe "Etain, the horse-rider." Her name derives from CC: *r-gan- "queen," and her name in Celtic times has been reconstructed as *Rigantona. As such, she is also a Goddess of sovereignty. Rhiannon was first used as a given name in Wales in the nineteenth century. The 1976 Fleetwood Mac song "Rhiannon" did much to make the name known outside Wales. The song was based on the character of a Witch called Rhiannon in Mary Leader's novel *Triad* (1973). Var: Rhianedd, Rhianydd (W); Rhianna, Rhiana, Rihanna, Reanna (mod).

Rhinedd Y Modern Welsh name-rhin "secret." Early 20th C. Var: Rhunedd.

Rhiniol 2 a' Welsh: rhiniol "mysterious" and "secret."

Rhion c? Y The boy's name is a Modern Welsh version of RYAN, or masculine form of RHIAN, coined from rhi "leader," while the girl's is a variant of Rhian. Mid-20th C.

Rhirid c~ Old Welsh name-rhi "ruler" + rhidd "to repel." Rhirid Flaidd "the Wolf" was a twelfth-century Welsh lord of Powys. Var: Rhiryd. Revived early 20th C.

Rhiwallon c~ Welsh form of the Brythonic Rigovellaunos < CC: *r-g- "king" + *vellauno- "chief." It was the name of an eleventh-century king of Powys, who-in some versions was father of the Physicians of Myddfai, legendary Welsh doctors, whose mother was said to be one of the fairy-folk inhabitants of nearby Llyn y Fan Fach.

Rhoda Y Greek: rhode "rose -bush." The name of a character in the New Testament. 16th C. Bearers: Rhoda Despard, a character in Agatha Christie's *The Pale Horse* (1961); *Rhoda* (1974-78) was an American sitcom.

Rhodri a' Old Welsh name-rhod "wheel" + rhi "ruler." It was borne by one of the most important figures in Welsh history-Rhodri Mawr "the Great," King of Gwynedd in the ninth century. Resurrected in the nineteenth century.

Rhoea Y Latinized form of Gr: rhoie "pomegranate." Var: Rhoa. Gr: rhoa also means "stream," while rhoia-which can also be Latinized as rhoea-means both "mulberry" and "flow." Also connected is Rhoeas, the Ancient Greek for "corn poppy" < rhuas "fluid" and "flacid," presumably a reference to its delicate stems.

Rhona Y Rhona is a difficult name to trace, but is older than generally thought. One of the earliest verifiable examples is that of the Hon. Rhona Tollemache, born in 1857, the daughter of Lord Tollemache of Cheshire. Her mother's family was Scottish, thus strengthening the theory that it is an adoption of the name of the Scottish island-RONA. The "h" spelling may have been purely an error; the Tollemache estate is close to Wales, and the family would have been used to Celtic place names beginning with Rh-. Rhona's adoption-and spelling-may also have been influenced by RHONE, RHONDDA, and/or RHONABWY. Alternatively, Rhona may have been a complete coinage, a blend, perhaps, of Rhoda and Anna or some other name ending in -na (Rhona Tollemache called her oldest daughter Elyned Rhoda). But it is unlikely to be an affectionate form of Rhonwen-at least in origin-as the first example of Rhonwen as a given name is 1858. Bearers: Rhona Boswell, the Gypsy heroine of *The Coming of Love* (1897) by Theodore Watts-Dunton.

Rhonabwy c~ "The Dream of Rhonabwy" is a twelfth or thirteenth-century prose tale which survived in the fourteenth-century Red Book of Hergest and was published in Lady Charlotte Guest's translation of the *Mabinogion* in 1849. It tells of a vision had by a young man called Rhonabwy during the reign of Madog (d. 1160) in which Rhonabwy saw King Arthur on the eve of the Battle of Mount Badon. Rhonabwy is difficult to parse and its

origins are obscure; the first element may be W: rhdn "lance"-or even perhaps a form of RHUN-the second may be a corruption of byw "alive," or mab "son," followed by the suffix -Wy.

Rhonda Y Anglicized form of RHONDDA, perhaps inspired or encouraged through an erroneous interpretation of Rhondda as W: rhon "lance" + da "good." Late 19th C.

Rhondda Y The name of a former coal-mining valley in South Wales often called the "Rhondda Valley," which takes its name from the River Rhondda. Its earliest spellings were Rhoddeni, Rotheni, Glyn Rhoddni, and Glenrotheney; the traditional meaning given was "noisy"-without explanation. It possibly derives from W: rhwadd < adrawdd "recite"; though it is more tempting to derive it from the same Celtic source as RHONE. 19th C.

Rhone Y c' The name of the French river, adopted as a given name in the second half of the nineteenth century. Its Latin name was Rhodanus, and it is believed that the Gaulish form was Rodonos or Rotonos. CC: *ret-o- "run" or *roto "wheel" + suffix -on- (often indicative of a theonym).

Rhonwen Y Rhonwen occurs in the Welsh Triads as the name of the Saxon wife of Vortigern. In English she is known as ROWENA. Whether her name was really Rhonwen, or the Welsh writers applied a Welsh name that approximated to the English or turned an English name into Welsh, will never be known for certain. In Welsh, it certainly breaks down very nicely into rhon "lance" + gwyn. Her epithet in Welsh was Baganes-"the Pagan." She is regarded as the "Mother of the English"-poetic Welsh names for the English are Rhonwen wyrion "the men of Rhonwen," and plant Rhonwen "children of Rhonwen." It is possible, therefore, that she represents not so much a Saxon princess as the embodiment of the Isle of Britain, and that the marriage with Vortigern is actually an echo of the symbolic "marriage" between the king and the Goddess of the land bestowing sovereignty upon him-a theme echoed in a number of other Celtic tales. Is it just a coincidence that Rhonwen bears more than a passing resemblance to another Goddess of sovereignty-Rhiannon? 19th C. Var: Ronwen, Ronnwen, Renwein, Romwenna (hist).

Rhoslyn Y e Rhoslyn is often treated as the Welsh form of Rosalyn (see Rosaline)-and it came into use about the same time. However, the Welsh is actually rhos "moor" + llyn "lake." In Wales, it is used for boys as well as girls, although as a boy's name, usage is now mostly confined to middle name use. Rhoslyn is also found fairly frequently as a name for houses, etc., possibly inspired by the Scottish Rosslyn.

Rhosyn Y Welsh: rhosyn "rose." Mid-20th C. Var: Rhosydd.

Rhuddos Y Welsh: rhuddos "marigold."

Rhufon c~ Old Welsh name meaning "Roman." In Welsh legend, Rhufon was the name of one of the sons of Cunedda. He gave his name to the small fifth-/sixth-century sub-kingdom of Rhufeiniog in North Wales, over which he was said to have ruled. 20th C.

Rhun c~ Old Welsh name which features in "The Tale of Taliesin." It was also borne by Welsh princes of the sixth and twelfth centuries. The etymology is uncertain, but it is most likely to derive from CC: *rnf "secret" and "magic." Middle Welsh rin meant "mystery" and "charm," and Modern Welsh rhin means "secret." Late 19th C.

Rhydderch c~ Traditional Welsh name, probably composed of rhi "very" + derch "exalted." It was used from at least the sixth century and survived until the medieval period, giving rise to surnames such as Prothero and Broderick. In the past, it was often rendered in English as RODERICK.

Rhyddid c' y Welsh: rhyddid "freedom." 19th C.

Rhyddian cc The name of a supposed early Welsh saint. The etymology is uncertain, but it is possibly from OW: rudd "red," making it cognate with Irish Ruadhan (see Rowan). The cognate Roudius is a known personal name from Gaul in the Roman period. Early 20th C. Var: Rhidian.

Rhyme Y Rhyme first saw use as a given name in the late twentieth century. The word itself has been around since the early seventeenth century, a conscious development from ME: rime "meter" < L: rhythmus < Gr: rhuthmos "measured time." The related Rhythm is also now in use.

Rhys e Traditional Welsh name, borne by two important figures of medieval history-Rhys ap Tewdwr, the eleventh-century king of South Wales, and Rhys ap Gruffydd, the twelfth-century lord of South-West Wales. The etymology isn't entirely clear, but it is thought most likely to derive from a Middle Welsh word meaning "splendor" or "glory" from which Modern Welsh rhysedd "glory" and rhyswr "hero" evolved. Rhys was very common in the medieval period, giving rise to the surnames Rhys, Rees, Reece, Rice, and Price. In the twentieth century, Rhys spread to the ESW. Var: Rees, REECE.

Ria Y Short form of MARIA, used as an independent name since the nineteenth century. It was made well known in Britain in the 1970s by the television comedy series Butterflies (1978-83), in which the main character was called Ria Parkinson. The word "ria" is used to denote a long narrow inlet of the sea, formed by the submergence of a former river valley.

Richard c' Old German: Ricohard-ricja + hart "hardy." Richard was introduced by the Normans and rapidly become one of the commonest names of the Middle Ages. In daily use, it was often shortened to a number of hypocoristic forms such as Rich, Rick, Ricket, DICK, DICKON, Hick, Hicket, Hitch, Hudd, and Hudde. Modern short forms include Rich, Richie, Rick, Rickie, Ricky, Dickey, Dickie, and Dicky. W: Rhisiart, Cat, Fr: Ricard, Sp: Ricardo, Lith: Ricardas, It: Riccardo, Cz, Fr, Ger: Richard, Sw: Rikard, Fin: Rikhard, Riku, It Ga: Ristead, Sc Ga: Ruiseart, Pol: Ryszard. Bearers: three English kings, including the legendary Richard the Lionheart (1157-99); Richard Cromwell, 2nd Lord Protector of England (1626-1712); Richard Feynman (1918-88), the American physicist; Richard Dawkins (b. 1941), the British zoologist; Richard O'Brien (b. 1942), the English actor and writer; Richard Garfield (b. 1963), the creator of the collectible card game Magic: The Gathering; Richard Papen, the central character and narrator of Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (1992).

Richenda ? Richenda is usually treated as a feminine form of Richard, and sometimes dismissed as an eighteenth-century coinage. However, its roots are considerably older, developing from the medieval name Richenza. This seems to have arisen in Eastern Europe, taken there through dynastic marriages from Scandinavia, tracing back ultimately to Old Norse Rikissa,

a feminine diminutive of riki "power" and "might," cognate with OE: ric.
Var: Richeza (hist). Dim: Ricky, Rickie, Ricki, Rikki (mod). Bearers:
Richenda Rayma Anisa of Rheljan, a character in Katherine Kurtz's Deryni
series (1970-).

Richer e Norman French form of Old German Richere- ricja + heri "army."
It was very popular in the Middle Ages, though the name was eventually
absorbed into RICHARD, and survives now as little more than a surname.

Richilda y Medieval name. OG: ricja + hilti "battle." Var: Richilde,
Richolda.

Richmal Y This intriguing name is older than many people think. It seems
to have originated in the Kay family of Bury, Lancashire in the early
eighteenth century (of which John Kay, inventor of the flying shuttle, was a
member). Most of the women called Richmal in the eighteenth century,
including Richmal Mangnall (1769-1820), the prominent early nineteenth-
century educationalist, can be traced either by direct descent or through
siblings to Richmal Kay, daughter of a certain Richard Kay, who was
baptized in Bury in 1705. Said in some sources to be a combination of
Richard and Michael, it seems far more likely to be a combination of
Richard and MAL or Mall, the short form of Mally (see Mary). Its coinage
and adoption may also have been influenced by RACHEL, which was also
used by the Kays. Bearers: Richmal Crompton (1890-1969), the
Lancashire-born author of the Just William stories (1922-70).

Richmay Y Richmay survives today only as a surname, but it was once a
medieval girl's name. OE: rac + mcege "maiden." Var: Richemaya (hist).

Richmond cc By and large, Richmond's use represents the transferred use
of the surname, which comes from the city of Richmond in Yorkshire.
However, there was an Old English name Ricmund-ric + mund
"protection," the origin of the surnames Richman and Rickman. Var:
Richmund.

Rider cc English surname. OE: ridere "a rider," a term probably used of a
mounted soldier. Var: Ryder. Bearers: H. Rider Haggard (1856-1925), the
English novelist.

Ridley cc English surname, from any one of the places called Ridley. OE: hreod "reed" + leah. Used since the seventeenth century, often in honor of St. Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London (1500-55), who was burnt at the stake by Queen Mary I. Bearers: Ridley Scott (b. 1937), the English film director.

Rigel c~ The popular name of Beta Orionis, the brightest star in Orion, a blue supergiant, perhaps as much as ninehundred light years away. It is the star principally responsible for lighting up the Witch Head Nebula, the remains of an ancient supernova. Ar: al-r~l "the leg." Late 19th C.

Rigisamus a' A Celtic God. CC: *r-g- "king" + superlative suffix (i.e. "most royal") or *samo- "summer." His name was linked with Mars in an inscription at West Coker in Somerset, England. Probably cognate with RIOTHAMUS.

Rigzin c' Y Tibetan name-rig "knowledge," "science," "logic," and "intelligence" + dzin "upholds."

Rika 2 Japanese name-ri "pear" + ka "blossom," "flower," "petal," or "luster." Alternatively, different kanji can mean ri "justice" or "truth" + ka "good" and "fine."

Riker G~ German surname. Low German: rike "rich." 20th C. Var: Ryker.

Riley cc Y English surname, from either of the places of the name in England. OE: g3e "rye" + leah. 18th C. Its general use as a girl's name dates from the late twentieth century. Bearers: Riley Finn, a character in the American television series Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1997-2003); Riley, a vampire in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series (2005-8); Riley Bloom, a character in Alyson Noel's Immortals and Riley Bloom series. Var: Rylee, Ryleigh, Ryley, Rylie.

Rina ? Rina is principally a short form of any name ending in -rina such as SABRINA. It is also a Japanese name. Depending on the kanji used, it can mean: ri "village," "jasmine," "benefit," "advantage," "logic," "reason," and "truth" + na "wild apple," "fame," or "renown." Rina also means "song" and "joy" in modern Hebrew, referring specifically to a song of prayer. In

Sanskrit rana means "dissolved" or "vanished," while in Hausa it means both "dye with indigo" as well as being the name of a type of wasp.

Rinaldo cc Italian form of REYNOLD. It was much used in Renaissance literature; Rinaldo was one of the heroes of Torquato Tasso's epic poem *Jerusalem Delivered* (1581), which formed the basis of Handel's opera *Rinaldo* (1711). Used in the ESW since the eighteenth century.

Rio ? Rio's use as a given name dates to the nineteenth century. One of the earliest examples is one Robert Rio Treasure, whose birth was registered in 1857. It is likely that the inspiration was the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, and was probably bestowed at first upon children whose parents had some connection with it. Most use as a girl's name postdates the release of British pop group Duran Duran's hit single "Rio" in 1982. Bearers: Rio Ferdinand (b. 1978), the English footballer.

Riofach Y Old Irish name-riogh "ruler" + bec "small." Riofach is the name of a saint-a sister of St. Colman of Cork. Var: Riomthach, Riomhthach.

Riona Y Modern Irish girl's name, which developed partly as a short form of Catriona (see Katherine) and partly as a variant spelling of RIONACH. Early 20th C.

Rionach Y Deriving from the Old Irish meaning "queenly," Rionach was the name of the wife of the legendary Irish king Niall of the Nine Hostages. Var: Rioghnach.

Riordan c~ Simplified form of the Old Irish name Rioghbhardan-riogh "ruler" + bard "bard" + dim. suffix -dn. It is usually interpreted as meaning "royal bard," although "little bard-king" is more literal. Anglicized as Reardon.

Riothamus c~ A Romano-British military leader, who lived in the fifth century. He may be the historic source of some of the myths surrounding King Arthur. CC: *r-g"king" + superlative suffix, giving it the meaning "supreme king." Riatam is a form found in early Breton records, and it is probably cognate with RIGISAMUS. Var: Riotimus, Rigothamus, Rigotamos.

Ripley c~ English surname, deriving from one of the places called Ripley in England. OE: *riiel "strip-shaped" + leah. 19th C.

Ripple Y a The English noun "ripple," which is used of the light ruffling of the surface of water caused by a breeze, dates only to the eighteenth century. It comes from a verb, which itself only dates to the seventeenth, and is of uncertain origin. The word is also used of something with a "ripple mark," most popularly in recent decades as a variety of icecream. Early 20th C.

Rishi e Indian name. San: rsi "seer" or "sage." Used as the Hindu equivalent of "saint."

Rissa Y Short form of CLARISSA, found in independent use since the nineteenth century. It is also the ornithological name for the kittiwake. Some twentieth-century use may have been as an English form of RAISA.

Rita Thai name-rit "enormous ability," "formidable power," "supernatural power," and "magical ability." Var: Rithee.

Rita Y Italian short form of MARGARET, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. In Iceland, rita means "kittiwake." Bearers: Rita White, the central character in the film version of Willy Russell's *Educating Rita* (1983); Rita Skeeter, a Witch-journalist in the *Harry Potter* series. "Lovely Rita" (1967), a Beatles song.

Rivallo C? According to Geoffrey of Monmouth, Rivallo was the name of one of the legendary kings of Britain. It is an Anglicization of RHIWALLON.

River c Y The English "river" derives from Fr: *rivere* < Late L: *riparia* < L: *ripa* "bank." Although regarded as one of the "hippie" names of the sixties and seventies par excellence, it has actually been in use as a given name since the eighteenth century. It seems to have been particularly attractive to people whose surname was Jordan. The very closely related name Rivers has also been in use since at least the eighteenth century, but is an adoption of the surname. This derives in part from places in France called *La Riviere*-such as in the *Pas-de-Calais*-and in part from the English "river"

used of someone who dwelt by a river. Bearers: River Phoenix (1970-93), the American actor; River Song, a character in the British science-fiction drama Doctor Who (1963-).

Riwal a A Breton king of legend, and also a shadowy Breton saint. He gives his name to the town of Saint-Rivoal in Brittany. Almost certainly a variant of RHIWALLON. Var: Rivoal.

Roald a Norwegian name. ON: hroor "fame" + valdr "ruler." Bearers: Roald Amundsen (1872-1928), the Norwegian explorer; Roald Dahl (1916-90), the British author.

Robert a' Old German: Hrodebert-*hrooi "fame" + berht. Introduced into Britain by the Normans, reinforcing the Old English cognate Hreodbeorht. Var: Robard (hist); RUPERT. Dim: HOB, Dob, Nob, (hist); Rob, ROBIN; Robby, Robbie, Bob, Bobby, Bobbie (mod); Rab, Rabbie (Sc). Sc Ga: Raibeart, Fr, Ger, Scand: Robert; Hun: Robert, It, Port, Sp: Roberto, It Ga: Roibeard, Fin: Roopertti; Pertti (dim), Ger: Ruprecht. Bearers: Robert the Bruce (1274-1329), King of Scotland; Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester (1532-88), favorite of Queen Elizabeth I; Robert Fludd (1574-1637), the mystic and astrologer; Robert Schumann (1810-56), the German composer; Robert "Bobby" Kennedy (1925-68), the American statesman; Robert Graves (1895-1985), the British author; Robert Cochrane (1931-66); a British Witch and founder of Cochrane's Craft, considered a form of Wicca by some and a Traditional Initiatory Witchcraft by others.

Roberta Y Feminine form of ROBERT. There is evidence that Roberta saw some use in the medieval and early modern periods, although-as with a number of other Latin feminine forms of common male names-it is likely women so named were actually called Robert. Var: Robertina, Dim: Bobbie, Bobby, Bettie. Bearers: Roberta Waterbury, one of the main characters in E. Nesbitt's The Railway Children (1906).

Robien a Y Khmer: robien "knowledge" (especially of magic), "incantation," "magical spell." The krou robien are a class of traditional healers in Cambodia, who specialize in making talismans.

Robin a 2 Robin arose as a pet-form of ROBERT. It was so common in the Middle Ages that it became a generic name for a man, and was used in a number of general contexts, often with the preceding epithet of "jolly" or "poor." By the sixteenth century, it had come to be used for the name of the little bird, which in Anglo-Saxon times had been called a ruddoc "ruddy"- and is still called a ruddock in some parts of England. Robins have long been associated with winter; it is the time of year they are most visible, and their distinctive red breasts make them stand out even more in the snow. That robins may have had sacred significance in pre-Christian times is suggested by the lingering folk-belief that the sight of a robin by a sick person is a portent of death, and that to kill a robin will bring evil upon the killer's head. A further clue to its former status lies in the belief that the robin was husband to the wren-a bird whose connection to the Druids is well attested. Unless harm is done to them, robins are usually considered kindly and charitable birds. Two other important figures that have acquired the name Robin are the legendary British outlaw Robin Hood, and Robin Goodfellow, a playful woodland sprite. Both are associated with the Green Man. Robin is still sometimes treated as a pet-form of Robert, but it has been used as an independent name for centuries also. It is found in use for girls from the nineteenth century, though at first as a middle name, suggesting that it represented the bestowal of the surname (from the same source as the boy's name), but by the end of that century, the robin had probably become the principal inspiration. Var: Robyn. Bearers: Christopher Robin Milne (1920-96), immortalized as "Christopher Robin" by his father A.A. Milne in *Winnie-the-Pooh* (1926).

Robina ? Feminine form of Robin used from at least the sixteenth century. Var: RUBINA, Rebinah, Rebena, Robyna, Robena. Bearers: Robina Cromwell (1617-aft. 1667), a sister of Oliver Cromwell.

Robinia Y A genus of plants native to North America and Mexico, named after the French botanist Jean Robin. He was responsible for the introduction of robinias to Europe in 1601.

Robinson c~ English surname-"son of Robin." 17th C. Bearers: Robinson Crusoe, eponymous hero of Daniel Defoe's novel (1719).

Robur ' Latin: robur "oak." Robur appears as the name of a God or genius loci in an inscription in Gaul dating to the Roman period.

Rocco cc Italian name from OG: hrok-"rest," or "roof" and "crow." Which of these was the sentiment behind the name is unknown, but given the widespread use of hraben "raven" in German names, it is probably the latter. It was the name of a fourteenth-century saint much venerated in Italy, who is usually called Roch or ROCK in English. Madonna gave the name to her son born in 2000. Fr: Roch, Sp: Roque.

Rochelle Y La Rochelle-meaning "the little rock" in French-is a famous port on the west coast of France. Its adoption as a given name is mostly due to its -elle suffix, as

well as its similarity to RACHEL. 19th C. Bearers: Rochelle Hudson (1916-72), the American actress.

Rock c Rock is traditionally the English form of ROCCO and is used to translate the name of the saint, but what use there has been of Rock as a given name in the ESW is probably mostly due to the English surname. ME: ater Oke "at the oak," or from Rock in Northumberland < ME: rokke "rock." Use in more recent times may be simply the adoption of the word "rock." Symbolically, rocks stand for solidity and strength.

Rocket 6 Y Rocket has three distinct usages. The first and oldest-is the name of the herb, which was formally used in herbal medicine but is now prized as a salad vegetable. MF: roquette < L: ERUCA.'The other rocket is the propulsion kind, which is older than some might think.'The word derives from It: rocchetta, used to mean "cylindrical projectile"; its original meaning was "small bobbin" and it was applied to rockets because of the similarity of their appearance. It entered English in the late sixteenth century. There is also a surname Rocket, which is thought to have arisen to describe someone who dwelt by a small rock. It is this last Rocket likely to be responsible for the first examples of Rocket as a given name in the nineteenth century.

Roderick cc Old German name-*hrooi "fame" + ricja.'The cognate Old English Hre\$ric occurs in Beowulf along with a Norse equivalent Rorik

(originally Hrothrekr). It was introduced by the Normans, and became established in Scotland and Wales; in the latter, it was used to render Rhydderch. Dim: Rod, Roddy. Var: Roderic, Rotherick. It, Port, Sp: Rodrigo, Fr: Rodrigue, Ru: Rurik. Bearers: Roderick Random, hero of Tobias Smollett's *The Adventures of Roderick Random* (1748).

Rodney cc English surname, deriving from an unidentified village in Somerset; as a surname, it was later attached to another Somerset village, Rodney Stoke, where the Rodney family held lands in the fifteenth century. The etymology is unclear; the second element is probably OE: eg "island" while the first may be hreod "reed." It was borne by the British Admiral George Brydges Rodney (1719-92), and was originally bestowed in England in his honor. Dim: Rod, Roddy. Bearers: Rodney Trotter, a principal character in the British sitcom *Only Fools and Horses* (1981-2003).

Roe 2 Gc English surname, from OE: ra "roe deer." 18th C. Its use in more recent times maybe just an adoption of "roe," with the deer in mind, rather than fish-spawn.

Roger a Old English: Hrothgar-*hrooi "fame" + gar "spear." It was reinforced by the German equivalent Hrodgar, which was introduced at the time of the Norman Conquest as Roger. Roger was very popular in medieval times, and gave rise to a number of surnames, such as Rogers, Hodges, Hodgkins, and Dodgson. In Britain, its use as a given name has been severely compromised in recent years since the expression "to roger"-meaning "to have sex with"-became common. Dim: Hodge, Dodge, Hodgkin (hist). W: Rhosier, Scand: Roar, Fr, Ger, Sw: Roger, Port: Rogerio, Ger: Riidiger, It: Ruggero, Ruggiero, Dut: Rutger. Bearers: Roger Bacon (c. 1214-94), nicknamed Doctor Mirabilis "Wonderful Teacher"-was an English philosopher; Roger Parslow, a character in Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy (1995-2000); Roger Bolinbroke (d. 1441), a priest and secretary of the Duchess of Gloucester, who was tried and found guilty of plotting to kill the king using Witchcraft and was executed accordingly.

Rogue c? Y The English word "rogue" dates to the mid-sixteenth century, when it was a legal term for a type of vagabond. It is thought to have evolved from ROGER. It was also used to denote a dishonest and

unprincipled individual, but-like the similar "rascal"-it had developed overtones of mischief by the end of the century. Its use as a given name dates almost entirely to the late twentieth century. There are some examples earlier in America within the Spanishspeaking community, but these almost certainly represent the Spanish name Roque (see Rocco).

Rohan 6 ? Rohan's principal use as a given name is as an Indian boy's name, deriving from San: rohana "ascending." This is the name of a mountain in Ceylon, commonly called Adam's Peak in English. Rohan's use in the ESW, however, seems unrelated to this. It is found in the nineteenth century, when it was probably bestowed in honor of the noble French house of Rohan, which took its name from Rohan in Brittany. Two members of this family were leaders of the Huguenots (French Protestants), accounting for the adoption of the name outside France. In the twentieth century, the influence is more likely to have come from Tolkien's kingdom of Rohan, whose heroic warriors are habitually referred to as the "Riders of Rohan," and their principal female character, Eowyn, as the "Shield-maid of Rohan." Fem: Rohana.

Rohani y Malay: rohani "spiritual."

Rohini 2 The Sanskrit name for the star Aldebaran, meaning "red deer." Used as a girl's name in India.

Roisin Y An Irish girl's name meaning "little rose," taken from the famous sixteenth-century poem "Roisin Dubh." Lady Rose O'Neil, said to have been a daughter of the Earl of Tyrone, is widely believed to have inspired it. The name is Anglicized as Rosheen, and in the past may have been rendered by Rosina.

Roj c~ Kurdish name-roj "sun." Bearers: Roj Blake, the central character in the British science-fiction series Blake's 7 (1978-81).

Roland c' Old German: Hrodland-*hrodi "fame" + landa "land." Roland (d. 778 CE) was the name of one of the principal military leaders of Charlemagne the Great, who featured in numerous chivalric tales during the Middle Ages. Var: Rowland. Dim: Roly, Rowley, ROLLO. Hun: Lorand, Lorant, It: ORLANDO, Rolando; W: Rolant. Bearers: Roland

Leighton (1895-1915), a young British poet killed in World War I, immortalized by his fiancée Vera Brittain in *Testament of Youth* (1933); Roland Deschain, anti-hero of Stephen King's *Dark Tower* series (1982-); Roland Michell, a main character in A. S. Byatt's *Possession* (1990).

Rolf c~ Old Norse: Hrolfr-cognate with RUDOLPH. By the end of the fifteenth century, it had been largely absorbed by Ralph. Revived 19th C. Bearers: Rolf Harris (b. 1930), the Australian artist and musician.

Rollo c~ Latinized form of ROLF, used of the First Duke of Normandy in the tenth century. Whether Rollo was ever actually used outside Latin documents as a given name in the Middle Ages is doubtful, and it may be that when it was taken up in the nineteenth century, it was the first time Rollo had actually been used as a genuine name. It has sometimes been used as a short form of ROLAND.

Roma Y The Latin name for Rome. Roma is still the form used in many languages to this day, including Italian. Roma was personified as a Goddess during the late Republic, and the Temple of Venus and Roma, built by the Emperor Hadrian in 135 CE, was the largest in the city. The Roma is another name for the Romani. 19th C.

Roman Gc Meaning "a Roman" he. a citizen of ROME, Roman only seems to have been used in the ESW as a given name since the sixteenth century. Fr: Romain, Pol, Ru: Roman, It: Romano, Sp: Romanos. Bearers: Roman Polanski (b. 1933), the French-born Polish film director.

Romana y Feminine form of ROMAN, used in a number of countries including Spain, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, and some Islamic countries. Used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Var: Romina, Romaine. Fr: Romaine. Bearers: Romana-short for Romanadvoratrelundar-a Time Lady companion of the Doctor in the British science-fiction series *Doctor Who* (1963-).

Romany y In the fourteenth century, Romany was used as a poetic name for the Roman Empire. Late L: Romania < Romanus "Roman." From the early nineteenth century, the word is found applied to the historic traveling people of Europe who are often termed Gypsies. "Romani" is now the most

usual form employed for the people and language. Romani: Romani-the feminine and plural of Romano < rom (romd in the plural) "man." Late 19th C. Var: Romanie, Romanye (mod).

Rome Y English form of ROMA. The etymology is very uncertain. Various suggestions have been made, such as a derivation from Gr: rome "strength" and "might." However, although traditionally founded in 753 BCE, the site has been inhabited for at least ten thousand years, and it is quite probable that the name meant something prosaic in the lost language of the original inhabitants. It may also be that the early settlement took its name from a local deity-a wolf Goddess, perhaps, given the city's association with wolves. 19th C.

Romeo a' Romeo, hero of Romeo and Juliet is Shakespeare's interpretation of Romeus, the name used by the poet Arthur Brooke in "Romeus and Juliet" (1562) on which Shakespeare based his play. Another version was Rhomeo, as used in William Painter's translation of Pierre Boaistuau's French version of the story of 1559. In the original Italian sources which Boaistuau used, however, the name is also Romeo, an Italian derivation of ROME, meaning "of Rome" or "belonging to Rome." English footballer David Beckham gave the name to his son born in 2002.

Romilda Y Romilda occurs in historical records as the name of a sixth-century Duchess of Friuli, the mother-in-law of the Bavarian Duke Garibold II (585-625 CE). Also occurring in the records as Ramhilde, Romilda almost certainly represents a Latinized version of RAGNHILD. No other examples are known from the Middle Ages. In the seventeenth century, it was used the heroine of Francesco Cavalli's opera Xerxe (1654); it occurred again in Giovanni Bononcini's Xerxe (1694) and Handel's Serse (1738). Used as a genuine name since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Romilda Vane, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Romilly Y c~ English surname, deriving from places in France called Romilly, thought to derive from ROMULUS. 19th C-in the twentieth, increasingly used for girls. Bearers: Romilly John (1906-86), the son of British painter Augustus John, and a poet and writer in his own right; Romilly MacAran, a principal character in Marion Zimmer Bradley's Hawk mistress (1982).

Romola Y Feminine of Romolo, the Italian form of ROMULUS. Used by George Elliot for her historical novel *Romola* (1862-63), which is set in late fifteenth-century Florence. 19th C.

Romulus c' One of the twin brothers who founded Rome-the other being Remus.'The two fought over whose name should be given to the city-Romulus killed Remus, and therefore won. He also became Rome's first king. L: ROMA + -ul-, thus essentially meaning "little Rome." Curiously enough, the name was also borne by the last Western Roman Emperor-Romulus Augustulus (d. bef. 488 CE), and there are also two saints of the name. 18th C. It: Romolo.

Rona 2 Rona is a name borne by two Scottish islands, which are sometimes called North Rona and South Rona to distinguish between them.'They are not close together North Rona lies above the Western Isles, while South Rona is found off the coast of Skye. The Modern Scots Gaelic form of both is Ronaigh. South Rona takes its name from ON: hrufa "rough" + ey "island." North Rona, however, is said to have been the home of St. Ronan and to take its name from him. It is more likely that the island's name derives from Sc Ga: ron "seal." Used as a girl's name since the nineteenth century-though it is not entirely clear why and how; it seems to have been used in England before Scotland.'The name has always been confused with Rhona, and it is probable this goes right back to the days when it was first used; Rhona seems to have been used first, but another variant Ronah-beats them both; the first example of this dates to 1855 and also occurs in England. But it is possible that Rona was in use in Scotland at an earlier date as an informal short form of Ronalda (first used in the early nineteenth century) or Ronaldina (first used in the eighteenth century). Rona is often now treated as a feminine form of both Ronald and Ronan. Var: Ronagh. Bearers: Rona Horne (b. 1959), a Scottish playwright, who wrote *The Last Witch* (2009), a play about the Scottish Witch Janet Horne.

Ronald 8 Ronald developed from Old Norse Rognvaldr-regin "might" and "counsel" + valdr "ruler," making it cognate with REYNOLD. It has been used continually in Scotland since medieval times, and in the nineteenth century, it became popular elsewhere. Var: Ranald, Dim: Ron, BONNIE. Fem: RONA, Ronalda, Ronaldina, Ronina. Sc Ga: Raghnaill, Raghall.

Bearers: Ronald Reagan (1911-2004), the American president and actor; Ronald "Ronnie" Barker (1929-2005), the British actor and comedian; Professor Ronald Hutton (b. 1954), the British historian who specializes in the history of Paganism; Ronald "Ron" Weasley, a Wizard and one of the main characters of the Harry Potter series.

Ronan ' Old Irish name-ron "seal" + dim. suffix -an. Name of a sixth-century Irish saint. Bearers: Ronan Keating (b. 1977), the Irish singer-songwriter.

Ronilda Y Latinized form of Old Norse Runhild-run "secret lore" + hildr "battle." Var: Runild, Runill. Bearers: Runhild Gammelsxter (b. 1977), the Norwegian-born vocalist of the American bands Thor's Hammer (1994-95), Burning Witch (1995-98), and Khlyst (2006-).

Ronnie 2 Principally a pet-form of RONALD, which has been used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century. As a girl's name, it is generally short for VERONICA.

Roo Y 8 Essentially a variant spelling of RU or RUE when used as a pet-form of any one of the names beginning with Ru-, such as RUBY, RUFUS, RUPERT, and RUTH. The spelling may well have been influenced by the character of Roo in A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh (1926); Roo is a joey, and his name is simply short for "kangaroo" (his mum is called Kanga). Used independently since the twentieth century.

Rook e The rook is the most cheerful and sociable member of the crow and raven family, a scruffy, raucous thing. Rooks nest together in rookeries, and their behavior in the past was used to forecast rain. The abandonment of a rookery on a person's land is taken as an omen of impending disaster, comparable to rats leaving a ship. OE: hroc "rook." The surname Rook comes directly from it, arising as a nickname. 16th C. Var: Rooke. In Romani, rook means "tree."

Rory ' Anglicized form of Gaelic Ruaidhri < ruadh "red" + ri "king." In the past, it was rendered in English as Roger. It all but disappeared in Ireland by the eighteenth century, but survived in Scotland, and returned to use in Ireland in the nineteenth, spreading elsewhere in the twentieth. Var:

Ruaidri, Ruairi, Ruaraidh, Ruaridh. Bearers: Ruaidri Ua Conchobair-often called Rory O'Connor in English-the twelfth-century king of Connacht and the last High King of Ireland; Colonel Rory-Roger-O'Moore (c. 1620-55), the titular King of Laois and one of the main leaders of the Irish Rebellion of 1641; Rory McGrath (b. 1956), the English comedian; Rory Bremner (b. 1961), the Scottish comedian.

Rosa y The Latin form of ROSE. It was adopted as a girl's name in the late eighteenth century, having long featured in titles of the Virgin Mary, such as Rosa Munda and Rosa Mundi (see Rosamund), Rosa Mystica and Rosa d'Abril. Bearers: Rosa Luxemburg (1871-1919), the German philosopher and political activist, who was one of the leaders of the Spartacist Uprising in Germany at the end of the First World War; Rosa Parks (1913-2005), the American civil rights activist.

Rosabel ? A sixteenth-century coinage: ROSA + the -bel ending of Isabel, etc. Var: Rosabelle, Rosabella. Rosabelle was the name of the favorite horse of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Rosalba 2 Italian combination of ROSA + It: alba "white." It occurs in *Le Bon Menage*, (1782) a one-act comedy by Jean-Pierre Claris de Florian, and *Rosalba* (1817) was a novel by German authoress Benedikte Naubert. Bearers: Rosalba Carriera (1675-1757), the Venetian artist; Princess Rosalba, a central character in William Makepeace Thackeray's *The Rose and the Ring* (1855).

Rosalie Y French form of Rosalia. In Roman times, the Rosalia was the Roman equivalent of the Anthesteria, which was one of the four annual festivals in honor of Dionysus in Athens, held in January/February. St. Rosalia was a twelfth-century Sicilian saint, but her cult did not reach Britain before the Reformation. Rosella is encountered in the seventeenth century, and Rosalia appears in the eighteenth, with Rosalie arriving in the ESW the nineteenth. Var: Rosalee (20th C). Bearers: Rosalie Hale, a vampire in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series (2005-8). *Rosalie* (1928) was a Broadway musical, made into a film in 1937.

Rosalind Y Old German name-(h)ros "horse" + linde "serpent" or lindi "soft" and "gentle." It found its way to Spain via the Goths, where it

became Rosalinda. Its use in the ESW is as a result of Shakespeare using Rosalind in *As You Like It*, which was based on Thomas Lodge's *Rosalynde* (1592). Dim: Ros, ROZ.

Rosaline 2 Essentially a variant of ROSALIND, used by Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Love's Labour's Lost*. Rosaline, Rosalyne, and Rosalina are found from time to time thereafter. In the latter half of nineteenth century, Rosalyn emerged. Another variant, Rosaleen, was used by James Clarence Mangan in his nineteenth-century poem "My Dark Rosaleen," based upon the traditional Irish poem "Roisin Dubh." After its publication in the late 1840s, Rosaleen also came into use. Bearers: Rosaleen Norton (1917-79), the New Zealand-born Witch and artist, who lived in Australia from the 1920s, where she accrued considerable notoriety.

Rosamund Y Old German name-(hros) "horse" + munda "protection." Introduced by the Normans. At an early date it was interpreted as deriving from L: *rasa munda* "pure rose" or *rasa mundi* "rose of the world," and it became an epithet of the Virgin Mary. Var: Rosamond, Rosamunde. Dim: Ros, ROZ, ROSIE. Bearers: Rosamund Clifford (bef. 1150-c. 1176), the mistress of King Henry II, who was known as "Fair Rosamund" and about whom many legends abound. Henry was said to have kept her in a house surrounded by a maze which only he could penetrate. Unfortunately, his queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine, managed to breach it too. She ensured that Rosamund was sufficiently mistreated that she died not long after-a tale reminiscent of the Greek myths surrounding Zeus and Hera.

Rosangela Y Italian girl's name combining ROSA and ANGELA. Used in the ESW from the twentieth century.

Rosanna Y A blend of ROSE and ANNA dating from the eighteenth century. Var: Roseanna, Roseanne, Rozanne. Dim: Ros, ROZ. Fr: Rosanne-used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Roseanne (1988-97) was an American sitcom starring Roseanne Barr (b. 1952).

Rosary 2 Latin: *rosarium* "rose-garden." In its earliest recorded use by Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1386), "rosary" is used as the vernacular name for a particular treatise on alchemy-the *Rosarium Philosophorum* by Arnaldus de

Villa Nova. Between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, it was a name given to a rose-garden or rose-bed, and in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, it was even used of an individual rose-bush. It came to mean a book of devotional prayers in the sixteenth century, and later the same century to mean a form of Roman Catholic prayer or set of devotions involving the recitation of a certain number of Aves, Paternosters, and a Gloria. Only at the end of the sixteenth century did it become the name of the beads used to help get through them all. Late 19th C. Var: Rosaria, Rosarie. Sp: Rosario, FR: Rosaire.

Rose 2 Rose was introduced by the Normans in the forms Roesie and Rohese, which were Latinized as Roesia and Rohesia. OG: (h)ros "horse." It first became Rose in the thirteenth century, after which it rapidly became identified with the flower, and its true origins were largely forgotten. Ruled by Venus and Water, the rose has long been used in folk-remedies and herbal medicine; rose hips are rich in vitamin C, and were used as an anti-inflammatory in the past. In magic, the rose features prominently in love spells and philters, and a tea made from rosebuds is said to bring prophetic dreams. The rose is said to be a favorite flower of the fairies, and fairies are attracted to gardens where roses grow. Symbolically, the rose has been important for millennia. The symbol of the Goddess Ishtar is interpreted as a rose, and the Greeks associated roses with Aphrodite, an association carried through by the Romans to Venus and Isis. Inevitably, the Christians appropriated it; old roses had five petals, and these were considered symbolic of the wounds Jesus received when he was crucified. Its associations with Goddesses were transferred to the Virgin Mary. It is also used as a color, a shade of pink-as is "rosy." Dim: ROSIE, Rosy. Var: ROSA. W: RHOSYN, It, Port, Sp: Rosa, Pol: Roza, Lith: Roie, Hun: Rozsa, Cro: Ruia, Jr Ga: Ros, Sc Ga: Rbs. Bearers: Mary Tudor (1496-1533), sister of King Henry VIII and wife of Louis XII of France, known as "Mary Rose"; Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy (1890-1995), the mother of JFK; Rose DeWitt Buketer, the heroine of the 1997 film Titanic; Rose Tyler, a companion of the Doctor in the British science-fiction drama Doctor Who (1963-).

Rosebay 2 Rosebay (sometimes written rose-bay)-a simple combination of ROSE + BAY-has been used as a name for the oleander since the sixteenth

century, and rhododendrons since the eighteenth, but is most familiar in Britain as rosebay willowherb-the beautiful weed of railway embankments, which also goes by the name fireweed. It is used in Native American medicine to treat pus-filled boils and cuts, but its more familiar use is culinary; the young plants have been known to be eaten as a vegetable, while in Russia, it is made into a tea. 20th C.

Rosefinch Y A type of finch, named for its pink coloring-ROSE + FINCH.

Roselani y Hawaiian name-ROSE + lanī "heaven" and "sky." It is also the name of a Hawaiian brand of ice cream.

Rosemary Y The aromatic shrub rosemary has long been valued for its medicinal and culinary uses. In ancient times, it was regarded as beneficial for strengthening the memory, and as such it became an emblem for faithful lovers. Ruled by the Sun and Fire and under the influence of Aries, it has a great many uses in herbal medicine, both internal and external; it is believed to prevent premature baldness and cure dandruff, and to be good for gout. In the past, it was used to ease palpitations, headaches and to cure/treat colds. Magically, it is considered a powerful plant of cleansing and protection. Rosemary derives from L: *ros marinus* "dew of the sea," and dates from the fifteenth century; the earlier form was *rosmarine*; *Rosemarine*, *Rosmarine*, and *Rosmarina* are all variants of the given name. The plant was assumed to be a combination of Rose and Mary at an early date, and was used as a given name in the seventeenth century, Dim: ROSIE, Rosy, Romy, Romey. Var: Rosemarie. Bearers: Rosemary Sutcliff (1920-92), the English novelist; Rosemary Woodhouse, the central character in Ira Levin's *Rosemary's Baby* (1967).

Rosendo cc Spanish name. OG: **hro3i* "fame" + *sin6s* "path." Rosendo was introduced into Spain by the Visigoths. It was the name of a tenth-century Spanish saint, also known as Rudesind.

Rosetta 2 There is evidence to suggest that Rosetta-an Italianate diminutive form of ROSE-was first used in the ESW in the seventeenth century. Its use was reinforced in the early nineteenth century by the fame of Rosetta in Egypt-the Europeanization of the name RASHID-which was the scene of an unsuccessful attempt in 1807 by British forces to secure a foothold in

Egypt during the Napoleonic Wars. It was also the home of an important stele discovered by the French in 1799, instrumental in the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphics by Jean-Francois Champollion in 1822. Var: Rosette.

Roshan a' Persian name-roshan "light." In Urdu, roshan means "bright" and "clear."

Roshanara ? Persian name-ROSHAN + ara "assembly." It was borne by a daughter of the famous seventeenth-century Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan.

Rosie ? Pet-form of ROSE and all its related names, such as ROSALIND and ROSEMARY. Used as a name in its own right since the nineteenth century. Var: Rosy. Bearers: Rosie Burdock, a character in Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie* (1959); Rose "Rosie" Cotton, a hobbit in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.

Rosina 2 Diminutive form of ROSE, popularized in 1781 by William Shield's light opera *Rosina*. A character with the name also features in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* (1816). Fr: Rosine, Cz: Ruiena. Bearers: Rosina Rubylips, the Witch in the 1954 film *Hansel and Gretel*, based on Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* (1893), in which the Witch calls herself Rosine Leckermaul i.e. "Tastymuzzle."

Rosita Y Spanish diminutive form of ROSE. Used in the ESW in the twentieth century.

Roskva ? In Norse mythology, a servant of Ithor. ON: roskvast "to grow" and "to mature."

Rosmerta Y A Celtic Goddess of fertility, healing, and abundance. There are a number of inscriptions bearing her name that survive in Europe, and she is often depicted with the Greco-Roman cornucopia-the "horn of plenty." Probably CC: *ro- "most" + *smert- "provider" or "carer," thus giving the meaning "great provider" or "great carer." Bearers: Madam Rosmerta, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Ross c~ British surname, deriving in part from Old German Rozzo-a short form of names beginning with Hrod-. Rozzo was introduced into England by the Normans, and was mostly used in the form Rosce, which survived long enough to give rise to the surname.'The other source of Ross is any of the places of the name, such as Rots in Normandy, Roos in Yorkshire, Roose in Lancashire, Ross in Hereford and Ross in Scotland. All derive from CC: frosso- "height" and "elevated land." 18th C. Bearers: Ross Nichols (1902-75)-whose Bardic name was Nuinn-the British poet and Druid who re-founded the Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids in 1964; Ross Poldark, the central character in Winston Graham's Poldark novels (1945-2002); Ross Geller, a character in the American sitcom Friends (1994-2004).

Rosslyn c Y Rosslyn Chapel in the village of Roslin, Scotland has become famous worldwide since the publication of Holy Blood, Holy Grail (1982) by Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln, and Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code (2003). In addition to all its cryptic Masonic and Knights Templar imagery, the chapel is also noted for its plethora of Green Men. Rosslyn is simply a variant of the name of the village.'The earliest recorded form is Roskelyn, from Sc Ga: ros "promontory" + cuileann "holly." 19th C.

Roswitha Y Latinized form of Old German Hroswitha- *hrogi "fame" + swig "strength." It was the name of a tenth-century German nun. She was a poet and dramatist-possibly the first dramatist in the West since the time of the Romans. Var: Hrotsvitha. Used in the ESW since the early 20th C.

Rothay Y c~ A river in the Lake District of England. ON: rauor "red." 19th C.

Rothwyn Y Rothwyn is the reconstructed Saxon form of ROWENA; since the legends said she was a Saxon princess, it was assumed she ought to have had a discernable Saxon name, and Rothwyn is the one proposed from a hypothetical Old English *Hro3wynn-hreod "fame" + wynn "joy," "rapture," and "delight." "This is perfectly plausible, but isn't attested.'The theory has been around for so long, however, that it is often accepted as fact. It is far more likely Rowena actually derived from RHONWEN. Bearers: Rothwyn, a character in the British science-fiction series Sapphire and Steel (1979-82).

Ron ? Chinese name. Mand: rou "soft," "gentle," and "mild."

Rouge 2 French: rouge "red." Rouge is an old-fashioned word for "blush" or "blusher." Its use as a given name dates mostly to the late twentieth century, although it saw limited use in the Middle Ages too; Rouge de Marsan, sometimes called Rubea, was a twelfth-century Gascon countess.

Rowan c? Y The rowan is a tree of considerable significance; its name may even derive from the same root as both RHUN and RUNE. Also known as the mountain ash, witchwood, witchbane, and wicken tree, it is the Ogham Luis, and is particularly known for its protective qualities

against harmful influences. Its association with Witches runs deep; in the eighth-/ninth-century Irish text *The Wooing of Etá* in, the wand of the Witch Fuamnach is made of rowan. Rowan-wood has long been used to make protective talismans-according to Charles Geoffrey Leland, writing in 1891, an old Gypsy saying ran thus: "woe to the lad/Without a rowan-tree god" (god here means "amulet"). Sacred to Brigantia and Brigid, it is also associated with divine inspiration and the creative arts in general. It is also known for its healing powers; a necklace of the berries can be worn to restore health. The berries themselves are rich in vitamin C and various tannins, etc., making them diuretic and purgative, and they are used in herbal medicine as a laxative and to treat kidney disorders. In Finnish mythology, the Goddess Rauni came to Earth when it was barren and bare and chose as her form a rowan tree. ON: raun "rowan tree" thought to derive ultimately from PIE: *(h1)rewdh "red" in reference to its berries. Rowan's use as a given name dates to the late sixteenth century; however, its use at first was not with regard to the tree, but the surname, which has more than one source. English Rowan derives from Rouen in Normandy. This is from the Gaulish Rotomagos < CC: Roto-the name of the Seine at Rouen in Roman times and cognate with RHONE-+ *magos "plain." The Scottish surname is from one of the places called Roan-ME: rone "thicket" and "undergrowth." The Irish is from Gaelic O Ruadhain "descendant of Ruadhan." Ruadhan is an Old Irish name-ruadh "red" + dim. suffix -dn. As the adoption of a surname, its use was at first mostly for boys. Its general take-up as a girl's name in the twentieth century is almost certainly inspired by the tree, along with its resemblance to Rowena. Var:

Roan, Roanne, Rowen, Rowanne. Bearers: Rowan Atkinson (b. 1955), the British actor and comedian; Dr Rowan Williams (b. 1950), the Archbishop of Canterbury; Rowan Morrison, a character in the British horror film *The Wicker Man* (1973).

Rowena 2 The traditional name ascribed to the Saxon daughter of Hengist, who married the Celtic chieftain Vortigern. Her first mention is in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* (c. 1136). Rowena is generally supposed to be from ROTHWYN, but this desire to give her a Saxon name stems purely from Geoffrey's account. It is more likely that it is in fact from RHONWEN, and has nothing to do with the Saxons at all. This Saxon association, however, was reinforced when Sir Walter Scott used it as the name of the Saxon heroine of *Ivanhoe* (1819). In more recent times, the name has also been strongly associated with the rowan tree, although the two are etymologically unrelated. Roana occurs in the thirteenth century, but most of Rowena's use post-dates *Ivanhoe*. Var: Roanna; Rowenna (W). Bearers: Rowena Ravenclaw, one of the legendary founders of Hogwarts School in the Harry Potter series.

Roxana Y Alexander the Great's Bactrian wife, who was murdered with her son c. 310 BCE, about thirteen years after Alexander's death. The name derives from the same origin as ROSHAN-Avestan: raoxshnem/raoxshna "radiant" and "shining." The Bactrian form of her name is said to have actually been the diminutive form Roshanak-still found in Iran today. Roxana: *The Fortunate Mistress* (1724) was a novel by Daniel Defoe, and Roxana has seen use in the ESW since. Var: Roksana, Rokshana, Roshana. Dim: Roxy, Roxie. Fr: Roxane-made well-known by Edmond Rostand's play *Cyrano de Bergerac* (1897).

Roxanne Y Variant of Roxane, the French form of ROXANA, influenced by other names ending in -anne. Early 20th C. Dim: Roxy, Roxie.

Roy og English surname. OF: roi "king." Roy is also a Scottish and Irish byname, deriving from Gaelic: ruadh "red." Walter Scott's *Rob Roy* (1817) about Scottish folk-hero Robert "Rob Roy" Macgregor (1671-1734), is principally responsible for the general take-up of Roy as a given name in the nineteenth century; most bearers in the 1841 census were born after the publication of Scott's book.

Roya Y Persian name-roya "vision" and "dream."

Royal c? The use of Royal as a given name dates to at least the eighteenth century. At first it was simply the transferred use of the surname, a variant of Royle-also used as a given name.'This actually derives from Royle in Lancashire-OE: ty3e "rye" + hyll "hill."

Royce English surname, derived from ROSE. 18th C. It is much associated with the British luxury car manufacturer Rolls-Royce.

Royston c? English surname, deriving from one of the places of the name. The one in Hertfordshire was originally called Crux Roaisie "Roesia's Cross" (see Rose). It then became Roeys before the addition of the tun.'The Yorkshire Royston is composed of Hror or Roarr (Norse variants of ROGER) + tun. 18th C. In 1838, in featured in `Thomas Miller's historical romance Royston Gower; or the Days of King John, which was popular in its day, and probably influ enced the use of the name. In the course of the nineteenth century, it was increasingly linked with ROY, and came to be regarded by many as Roy's "long form." Bearers: Royston Draper, the pseudonym of Alroy Bearand Ifor Haldane in Katherine Kurtz's Deryni novels (1970-); Royston Vasey, the fictional town in the British comedy The League of Gentlemen (1999-2002), which is the real name of controversial British comedian Roy "Chubby" Brown (b. 1945).

Roz ? Roz emerged as a short form of names beginning with Ros- such as ROSALIND, ROSALINE, ROSAMUND, etc. In Romanian, roz means "pint"" and "rosy"; in Urdu, it means "day." Used independently since the twentieth century.

Ru Y Chinese name. Mand: ru "scholar"-associated with Confucianism. In the ESW, Ru is also used as a short form of names beginning with Ru- such as RUFUS, RUPERT, and RUTH.

Ruadhnaith Y Irish Gaelic name-ruadh "red" + fern. dim. suffix -nait.

Ruarc c~ Irish Gaelic form of Hrothrekr, the Old Norse form of RODERICK. An older form was Ruadhrac. Rourke, Roark, and Roarke-all

originally surnames arising as Anglicized forms of the Irish O Ruairc "descendant of Ruarc"-are also in use. 20th C.

Rubea ? Feminine form of RUBEUS. It is found in medieval records as a Latinized form of ROUGE. Use from the late nineteenth century is likely to be as an elaborated form of RUBY.

Rubens a The surname Rubens is thought to have derived from OF: rubin "ruby," used originally of a jeweler. It is also possible that it derives from REUBEN. Rubens is most famous as the surname of the Dutch painter Sir Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), and it occurs in the ESW from the early nineteenth century in his honor.

Rubeus a' Latin: rubeus "red," "reddish," and "made of brambles." 19th C. Bearers: Rubeus Hagrid, a half-wizard, half-giant character in the Harry Potter series, whom Rowling herself has likened to the Green Man.

Rubin Gc Rubin arose as a variant spelling of REUBEN, and is found from the seventeenth century. As rubin means "ruby" in a number of European languages including German, Danish, Polish, Hungarian Spanish, and Romanian, it is often associated now with rubies rather than with Reuben.

Rubina Y In the ESW, Rubina was originally a variant spelling of ROBINA. The Spanish name, however, almost certainly derives from Sp: rubin "ruby." Rubina is also an Arabic girl's name of uncertain meaning. It is probably a variant of Rebana, which is the name of a type of drum used in Islamic devotional music. 17th C.

Ruby Y Old French: rubi < L: rubeus "red." It has been known in English from the early fourteenth century. Rubies share many of the same associations as the color red, such as passion and fire, leading to a legend that said a ruby dropped in water would cause it to boil. In Hinduism, it is believed the homes of the Gods are lit by rubies and emeralds. In Burma, rubies are considered to be the blood of Mother Earth herself. Regarded as the birth stone for July and Cancer-though also sometimes associated with Capricorn-rubies are believed to inject energy, and stimulate passion for life. They represent courage, integrity, and strength. Ruby first appeared as a girl's name in the eighteenth century-possibly earlier-but it wasn't until the

late nineteenth century, when the fashion for using gemstones as names came in, that it became widespread. Dim: RU, RUE, ROO. Bearers: Ruby Wax (b. 1953), the American-born actress and comedienne.

Ruda C? A pre-Islamic God of Arabia. The origin is very uncertain, and a number of far-fetched theories abound, but a connection with Akkadian: radu "to rule" and "to govern" seems plausible.

Rudbeckia Y Commonly called coneflowers or black-eyed Susans, Rudbeckia is a genus of largely perennial plants with cheerful yellow and orange blooms, often flowering in the late summer. Linnaeus named it after Olof Rudbeck the Younger (1660-1740), a botanist and professor of medicine at Uppsala University in Sweden. The Swedish surname probably derives from ON: rjoor "red" + bekk "brook" or "beck."

Ruddock G~ An old name for the robin. OE: rudu "redness."

Rudo a Y Shona: rudo "affection."

Rudolph e English form of German Rudolf. OG: Hrodolf-*hrooi "fame" + wolf "wolf," cognate with ROLF. 19th C. Dim: Rudy. It, Port, Sp: Rodolfo, Fr: Rodolphe, Dut: Roel (dim). Bearers: Rudolph Valentino (1895-1926), the Italian-born actor; Rudolf Nureyev (1938-93), the Russian-born ballet dancer.

Rudolphine 2 Feminine form of RUDOLPH, used from the nineteenth century. The Rudolphine Tables are a set of planetary tables and star catalogues compiled by Johannes Kepler in 1627, replacing the Alphonsine tablets, which had been in use from the thirteenth century.

Rudra c~ Y The name of a Hindu God of the wind and storms, as well as hunting. He is the original avatar of Shiva, and by the time of the Rigveda, the name Rudra was treated as an epithet of Shiva. San: rudra "crying" and "howling."

Rudraksha ? Indian name. San: rudraksa-the Sanskrit name for the Elaeocarpus ganitrus and its berry, which are used to make rosaries. The seeds are said to be the tears of RUDRA.

Rudyard cc Rudyard has been used since the late nineteenth century in honor of the British poet (Joseph) Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936). Kipling himself was named after the village of Rudyard in Staffordshire, where his parents met. OE: rude "rue" + gearde "enclosure."

Rue Y Gc A small, evergreen shrub noted for its intense bitterness. Symbolically, it is used for regret; it is one of the herbs Ophelia hands out after going mad and just before she commits suicide, when she mentions one of its other names-herb-of-grace. 'Ibis association presumably developed because of its similarity to English "rue"-"sorrow" and "repentance"-which derived from OE: hreow. The plant, however, derives from RUTA. In legend, rue is said to be the only plant that will not wilt when breathed upon by a basilisk. Despite the herb's bitter taste, it was a popular ingredient in Ancient Roman recipes, and is still sometimes used in Italian grappa. A herb of the Sun and Fire, and governed by Leo, rue was used in the past to ward the plague away, and it is still used for healing, being employed as an anti-spasmodic and a sedative. It is also used for menstrual problems. The plant is, however, an irritant, and can cause nasty blistering in the sun. Magically, rue is used principally for protection, to banish negativity and break curses. Crushed rue is said to banish regret and hurt after a relationship has ended.'The surname derives from OE: r&w "row," referring to a row of houses. Rue is also used as a short form of RUTH. 18th C.

Ruffian a' Old French: rufyan < Medieval Latin: rufianus-it is unknown where this came from originally. In the sixteenth century, "ruffian" was used of the worst sort of violent, cut-throat criminals. Time has mellowed it, however, and it has acquired an antique air. It is rarely used in a serious context anymore, and tends only to be used now in the same spirit as "rogue" and "rascal." 20th C.

Rufina Y Feminine form of Latin Rufinus "belonging to RUFUS." Rufinus was not uncommon as a cognomen in the Roman world; Claudia Rufina was a woman of British descent living in Rome at the time of the poet Martial; he praised her in one of his epigrams. There is also a third-century Spanish saint of the name, and it is still used in the Spanish-speaking world

and other Catholic countries, where the masculine form Rufino is also used. 18th C.

Rufus c? Latin: rufus "red." Used in Roman times as a cognomen for people with red hair or a ruddy complexion. It was common, and there is more than one saint of the name. Rufus was also used as a sobriquet in the Middle Ages-one of the most famous examples being William Rufus (c. 1058- 1100), a.k.a. King William II of England. However, it wasn't used as a given name until the sixteenth century. Dim: RU, RUE, ROO. Bearers: Rufus of Ephesus (1st C CE), a noted Greek medic who specialized in anatomy; Rufus Sewell (b. 1967), the British actor; Rufus Scrimgeour, a "Minister of Magic" in the Harry Potter series.

Ruis ? c The Ogham name for the elder. In the Tree Calendar, its month is November 25 to December 21.

Rukma Y Indian name. San: rukma "that which is bright or radiant," i.e. "ornament of gold." In Quechua, rukma is a type of fruit tree.

Rukmini Y San: rukmin "wearing golden ornaments" < RUKMA. Rukmini is Krishna's principal wife and queen, and considered an incarnation of Lakshmi.

Rumer 2 Gc English surname, a variant of Romer. ME: romere "one who has made a pilgrimage to Rome" < ROME. 19th C. Bearers: (Margaret) Rumer Godden (1907-98), the British novelist; Rumer Willis (b. 1988), the American actress.

Rumina 2 A Roman Goddess, who protects nursing mothers-both animal and human. In Roman times, she had a temple in Rome itself, close to the fig tree at the foot of the Palatine Hill, which marked the spot where Romulus and Remus were suckled by a she-wolf. Her name appears to share a root with L: rumino "to chew the cud." Rumina is used in Bulgaria and the Islamic world, where it is a variant of Romina, a name probably deriving from ROMANA.

Rumon c? A West Country saint, sometimes identified with St. Ronan-though this is probably because of the similarity in the names. He was

credited with driving the wolves out of the "Nemean Woods" near Goonhilly in Cornwall. In some oral traditions, Rumon himself is said to be a werewolf. The origins of his name are uncertain. It may well be a corruption of ROMAN; he is patron saint of Romansleigh in Devon. Rumon is used as a name in Arabic with this meaning. But his name is also recorded as Ruan, Ruman, Rewan, and Runon, and it is possible it actually derives from CC: *roumnjia- "hair"-given the werewolf connections, this seems quite plausible. Bearers. Rumon, a principal character in Anya Seton's Avalon (1965).

Rumor Y cc Latin: rumor "common talk," "hearsay," and "rumor"; also used figuratively to mean "murmur," "rustle," and "vague sound." Occurs in English from the fourteenth century, when it was introduced through the French. Late 20th C.

Runa Y Runa probably began as a variant of RONA, although it is also a Swedish and Icelandic name cognate with Scandinavian RUNE. Runa also means "rune" in a number of other languages, such as Italian, Spanish, and Swedish, while in Latin, it means "dart." 19th C.

Rune cc Y Old Norse: run "whisper" and "secret lore." It also had the express meaning of something which had been written imbued with magic and mystery. The use of the word "rune" in English dates only to the seventeenth century. Earlier, however, "roun" had been used with the connotation "dark saying" or "mysterious saying," "secret," or "mystery," as well as referring to a runic letter. The word is cognate with RHUN. There is considerable evidence to suggest that the act of writing in the past always had an element of mystic and magic about it, especially in the early stages of its usage in a culture. Until recently, writing was the preserve of a select educated few, and membership of the clique was often guarded. This was true from the times of Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt to the medieval period, when the power of the Church was at its height. Even in Rome- probably the most literate society prior to the nineteenth century the power of the written word was not lost, as testified to by its use (and frequent distortion) in curse tablets. Among the Celts and the Vikings, the symbols from which words were created were seen to possess great power and symbolism, and were adopted for use in divination. Those who practiced it

were the learned ones-the Druids of the Celts, the Volvas, and other shamanic-priests of the Vikings. In Scandinavia, the name Rune arose in the nineteenth century as a variant of Runi, a short form of names such as RUNOLFR. Use in the ESW dates from the late twentieth century, and is probably a direct adoption of "rune."

Runo c~ A legendary king of Britain recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth. It derives from RHUN. In Finnish, runo means "poem."

Runolfr c~ Scandinavian name. ON: run "secret lore" + uifr "wolf."

Ruolan 2 Chinese name. Mand: ruo "like" + ldn "orchid." Related is Ruomei-rub "like" + mei "plum."

Rupert 9 English form of Ruprecht, a German form of ROBERT. It was introduced into Britain in the seventeenth century by the soldier, statesman, and general Renaissance man Prince Rupert of the Rhine (1619-82), the nephew of King Charles I, who appointed him a commander of the Royalist forces during the English Civil War (1641-51). His enemies accused of him of Witchcraft; his white poodle Boye was believed to be his familiar. The name was adopted by his admirers in the seventeenth century, and even today is sometimes given with him in mind. Dim: RU, RUE, or ROO. Bearers: Rupert Brooke (1887-1915), the British poet; Rupert Everett (b. 1959), Rupert Graves (b. 1963), and Rupert Grint (b. 1988), all British actors; Rupert Giles, a major character in the American drama Puffy the Vampire Slayer (1997-2003).

Ruperta ? Feminine form of RUPERT. 17th C. Bearers: Ruperta Hughes (c. 1671-1740), daughter of Prince Rupert of the Rhine and the actress Margaret "Peg" Hughes.

Ruqayya Y Arabic name-rugyah "spell," "charm," and "incantation." The name of a daughter of the Prophet Mohammed.

Ruri y Japanese name-ruri "lapis lazuli."

Rusalka 2 A Slavic mermaid-like creature, nymph, or sprite, which dwells at the bottom of rivers. At night, they leave their homes to dance and, if

they get the chance, lure young men and children to their deaths. In the past, they were believed to be the ghosts of young women who had drowned and returned to haunt the places of their deaths. It was also believed that un-baptized children-often those drowned shortly after birth by their mothers because they were illegitimate-became rusalki. *Rusalka* (1901) was an opera by Dvorak.

Rush c~ English surname. OE: *rysc* "rush," used of someone who lived by a stand of rushes. From earliest times, rushes have played a significant part in many cultures, used for weaving baskets, mats, sandals, and even boats, as well as for roofing, etc. One type of rush, the papyrus sedge, was used to make the world's first "paper" (though paper as we know it is now considered a Chinese invention). The papyrus's flowering heads were woven into garlands as offerings of gratitude for the Gods. "Green Grow the Rushes, O!" is a well-known traditional folk-song which many believe contains coded Pagan meaning and symbolism. 17th C.

Ruslan c~ Russian name. It first appeared in Pushkin's *Ruslan and Ludmila* (1820). Pushkin based the name on *Yeruslan*, a name from Russian folklore, which also happens to be the name of a tributary of the Volga River. Fem: *Ruslana*.

Ruslo cc Romani name-ruslo "strong." In use since at least the nineteenth century.

Russell cc English surname. OF: *rousel* "little red one." There is evidence that, as well as a nickname, it was used as a personal name in the Middle Ages. Russell or Russel was also once a common name for the fox. The surname is particularly associated with the aristocratic Russell family, Earls and later Dukes of Bedford. 16th C. Dim: *Russ*, *RUSTY*. Bearers: Russell Crowe (b. 1964), the Australian-born actor; Russell Grant (b. 1951), the British astrologer; Russell Brand (b. 1975), the British actor and comedian.

Russet c' 2 Old French: *rousset* < *rous* "red," a word originally used of a reddish-brown homespun wool cloth worn by peasants. In time, it came to refer simply to the color, and in the eighteenth century, it also became the name of a type of apple. The surname derives from the same source. 19th C.

Rustam c~ A Persian hero, also known as Rostam. He features in much Persian literature, in particular Ferdowsi of Tus's tenth-century epic Shahnameh. He is famous for the defeat of a white dragon, in a tale reminiscent of that of St. George. Avestan: raodh "growth" or "developed" + takhma "brave."

Rusty cc Pet-form of RUSSELL, used independently since the twentieth century. It is difficult to say how much influence the word "rusty"-referring to the reddish-brown iron oxide which forms on objects made of iron through the process of oxidization-has had in its use. It derives ultimately from Old Teutonic: *rudhs-to- "red." Var: Rust.

Ruta Y Lithuanian form of RUTH. Ruta is also the Latin word for "rue," and in Sanskrit it means "(bird) song" and "(bee) hum." 19th C. Bearers: Ruta Lee (b. 1936), the Canadian actress.

Ruth 2 Biblical name of uncertain etymology. The Old Testament character was a Moabite, and it is likely her name was Moabite too, with Ruth representing a Hebrew equivalent, giving it the meaning of "compassion" and "friend" appropriate for the actions of the character. 16th C. Dim: Ruthie, RU, RUE, ROO. Get, It, Sp: Rut, Jr Ga: Rut, Lith, Pol: RUTA, Port: Rute, Fin: Ruut. Bearers: Ruth Manning Sanders (1886-1988), the Welsh writer known for collecting and retelling folk-tales for children from all over the world, including A Book of Witches (1965) and A Book of Wizards (1966); Ruth Wynn Owen (1915-92), the Welsh Witch, who founded Y Plant Bran; Ruth Condomine, a principal character in Noel Coward's play Blithe Spirit (1941); Ruth Winterbourne, a Witch in Kelley Armstrong's Women of the Otherworld series (2001-).

Ruy c' Pet-form of Rodrigo, the Spanish form of RODERICK. Bearers: Rodrigo "Ruy" Diaz de Vivar (c. 1040-99), best known as El Cid.

Ryan c~ An Irish surname, an Anglicized form of O Riain "descendant of Rian." Rian may derive from ri "king" + dim. suffix -an (making it a variant of REAGAN)-and this is the usual etymology offered. 'Me earliest recorded form of the name is, however, O Maoilriain, which means "descendant of Maolriain." Maol means "hero" or "devotee"; in the Christian period it is usually attached to the name of a saint, and in the Pagan era, to a deity.

There is no "St. Rian." It is likely, therefore, that beneath all the layers lies a Celtic God. A very plausible option is that of Rhenus, the God of the Rhine, from which Rhine itself also developed. CC: *rU2no "large expanse of water." In Ireland, *r(Eno- became rian and acquired the meaning "sea," "course," or "route," but it may also have preserved the name of the God. Ryan was first used in the nineteenth century, but most use post-dates the rise to stardom of the American actor Ryan O'Neal (b. 1940), after his appearance in Love Story (1970). Dim: RYE, Ry, Ri.

Rye Gc Y Most of Rye's usage as a given name is probably from the surname, which is taken in part from Rye in Sussex and in part from OE: *atter ieg* "(dwelling) at the island/dry ground in the marsh." In recent years, it may represent the direct adoption of "rye," the name of the ancient cereal crop. OE: *rye* < PIE: **rugiz* "rye." Rye has been cultivated since the second millennium BCE, and remains the main bread cereal grown in central and eastern Europe. Rye straw is traditionally used to make corn dollies. The grain is particularly susceptible to ergot, however, which can cause ergotism disease with symptoms very much like those suffered by alleged victims of Witchcraft, such as at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692. Rye is also an Anglicized form of Romani: RAI.

Rylan c~ There is a surname Rylan; a corrupted form of Ryland-combining RYE + "land." It is first encountered in the nineteenth century, but most use dates to the late twentieth. Whether it was taken up at that point with the rare surname in mind, or whether it is essentially a modern coinage, blending names such as Riley and Dylan, is more difficult to say.

Sabazius c~ Thraco-Phrygian God identified with Dionysus. Also used by the Romans as an epithet of Jupiter. Greek Sabazios. The similarity to Gr: sabazd "to shake violently" is superficial. Its true etymology is obscure. It may be related to Macedonian: sauddai or saudoι "satyrs" < PIE: *swo- "(his) own," or *sab- "juice" or "fluid"-tempting, given Dionysus's association with wine.

Sabbath Y c? English "Sabbath" derives from L: sabbatum < Heb: shabath "rest." This is the same source as the Wiccan Sabbat-the name used of the eight festivals of the year. In biblical terms, "Sabbath" is applied to the seventh day of the Hebraic creation myth, on which Yahweh was said to have rested. In English it is used pretty much synonymously with Sunday, but strictly speaking, it is simply "the day of rest" which is how the Jewish Sabbath falls on a Saturday, and the Islamic on a Friday. In the late medieval and early modern periods, Witch persecutors made much of the "Witches' Sabbath," an event where Witches were said to meet and get up to all sorts of naughty things by the standards and values of their Christian accusers. Whether gatherings of medieval Witches ever really happened outside the heads of these accusers remains a matter of debate. 16th C. Black Sabbath (1968-) is an English rock band.

Sabelina 2 An old name for "sable." Medieval L: sabelina < L: sabellum "sable." Used as a given name in the medieval period. Var: Sabeline, Zibeline. See also Zibellina.

Sabin c~ English form of Latin Sabinus "a Sabine." It was not uncommon as a cognomen in Roman times, and is borne by two saints. 12th C. Var: Sabyn (hist); Sabine. Bearers: Sabine Baring Gould (1834-1924), the British antiquarian, folklorist and novelist.

Sabina Y Feminine of SABIN. Like Sabin, it came into use in the twelfth century, in honor of a second-century saint, and is still used across Europe. Var: Zabina, Zabinah, Zebina, Zebinah-all principally West Country. Dim: BINA. Fr, Ger: Sabine, Hun: Szabina.

Sable Y c? The English word "sable" was originally used for the small animal-sometimes called a "sable marten"-but particularly its fur, which is naturally dark brown and glossy. It is thought it may have been dyed black in medieval times to increase the contrast with the white of ermine, hence its further meaning "black," used specifically in heraldry. L: sabellum "sable fur" < Slavic: sobol "sable"; the sable is native to Russia. 19th C.

Sabrina 2 Latin name of the River Severn and its Goddess, and cognate with HAFREN, Sabrina features in Edmund Spenser's Faerie Queene. It was used also by John Milton in his mask Comus (1634); a line from this-"Sabrina fair"-was the inspiration for Samuel Taylor's play Sabrina Fair (1953), which became the film Sabrina (1954). Sabrina is also the title character in the American television series Sabrina the Teenage Witch (1996-2003). 17th C.

Sacheverell c~ English surname, probably derived from Saultchevreuil in Normandy. This is from OF: sault "waterfall" < L: salio "to leap" + chevreuil "roe." 18th C. General use at first was largely in honor of the preacher and politician Dr Sacheverell (1674-1724), who was well known and admired in his day. Bearers: Sir Sacheverell Sitwell (1897-1988), the English writer and art critic.

Sadachbia ? A star in Aquarius. Ar: sad "good luck" + al "the" + khiba' "tent"-i.e. "good luck of the tent"; a home to the Bedouin.

Sadbh Y Traditional Irish name. It was the name of the wife of Finn McCool and mother of Oisín. She was turned into a deer. CC: *swfdu-"sweet." Var: Sadhbh; Sabia (L).

Sadie Y Pet-form of SARAH, used independently from the nineteenth century. Bearers: Sadie Jasper, a Wiccan in Caitlin R. Kiernan's novel Daughter of Hounds (2007).

Sadwrn c~ Welsh form of SATURN. Llansadwrn may have once had a shrine dedicated to him.

Saer c~ Usual medieval English form of Old German Sigiheri-sigi "victory"+ harja "host." There was a corresponding Old English Sigehere,

which the Germanic name replaced when it was introduced by the Normans. Var: Sayer.

Saffron Y The precious spice, made from the stamens of a particular variety of crocus. By weight, it is more expensive than gold. ME: saifran < F: safran < Ar: zafaran "saffron." 19th C. Dim: Saffy. Bearers: Saffron "Sally" Monsoon, a principal character in the British comedy series Absolutely Fabulous (1992-2004).

Safi cc Arabic name-Safi "pure," "clear," and "sincere." Fem: Safiyya.

Safir c~ Arabic name-safir "ambassador" or "mediator." Used as the name of one of the Knights of the Round Table who features in the thirteenth-century Prose Tristan and

Malory's Le Morte d Arthur. He is a son of the king of Babylon. Var: Safer, Safeer.

Saga Y In Norse mythology, Saga is an aspect of the Goddess Frigg. Her name probably derives from ON: sja "to see"-thus giving her name the meaning "seer"-rather than from saga, the name given to a Norse narrative story. Saga is still used as a given name in Scandinavia, and has sometimes found its way into the ESW since the twentieth century. In Latin, saga means "wise-woman," "sooth-sayer," "fortuneteller," and "Witch," and the Norse and the Latin may derive from the same Proto-Into-European source. In Britain, Saga is also the name of a company specializing in products and services for people over fifty years of age.

Sagana Y A Witch in a poem by the Roman poet Horace. She is not portrayed in a flattering manner. L: sagana "female diviner," "wise woman," and "Witch." Sagana is also used as a name in India. San: sagana "accompanied by attendants." It is also the name of a river in Kenya.

Sage c ? Sage has two distinct meanings.'The first is the important herb, known in Latin as SALVIA.'The second is an adjective meaning "wise" and "sagacious"; used as a substantive, it means "wise man" or "wise woman."'"The potency of the herb sage has been known since ancient times; its Latin name derives from L: salvus "healing," and the English derives

from the Latin, via French. Ruled by Jupiter, it is a herb of Air. Magically, it is considered good for stimulating wisdom. It is also used to promote long life; an old rhyme runs: "He who would live for aye/must eat sage in May." It is symbolic of both wisdom and long life, as well as domestic virtueperhaps a reference to the fact that few herbs are prized for folk-remedies more than sage, another old adage goes: "Why should a man die whilst sage is in his garden?" It is antiseptic and astringent, and good for treating colds, especially sore throats. However, it should never be used medicinally when pregnant. Sage appears as a given name from the sixteenth century. This may be an example of the Puritan adoption of nouns and adjectives with "virtuous" meanings, or of the general fashion for bestowing surnames as given names, though it makes little difference, as the surname and the adjective derive from the same source-OF: sage "wise" < L: sapio "to be wise."

Sagitta Y Latin: sagitta "arrow." It is also the name of a minor constellation.

Sagittarius c~ ? The name of the constellation. L: sagittarius "archer"-although the identity of the archer is unclear; he is usually depicted as a centaur. Sagittarius is one of the twelve signs of the zodiac, its season traditionally said to cover November 22-December 21 in the West. Its element is Fire, and it is associated with Jupiter and Mercury. Sagittarians are said to be optimists, impulsive, generous, and fond of traveling, but are also risk-takers, who are not great with money. Late 20th C. Fem: Sagittaria (mod).

Sagamore c? A Knight of the Round Table in Arthurian Romance. Fr: sacre amour "sacred love."

Sahar Y Arabic name-sahar "dawn" and "daybreak." It shares an identical root with sihr "magic," from which also comes sahar "magician" and "sorcerer," and sahir "bewitching," "charming," and "enchanting." Sahira, another Arabic girl's name, comes from a slightly different word-sahir "nocturnal," "vigilant," and "sleepless," which is used of the moon.

Saille Y c? The Ogham name for the willow. Fifth letter of the Ogham alphabet, Saille is the Tree Calendar month of April23 until May 12.

St. John 5" By and large, St. John (pronounced "SIN-jan") is an adoption of the English surname, derived from Saint-Jeanle 'Thomas in La Manche, France. It was borne by a powerful medieval English family, and has been used as a given name since the seventeenth century. St. John Rivers is a character in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre (1847). St. John (pronounced the normal way of "stint JON") is also coupled with OE: wort "plant" to give us St. John's wort, an important and significant herb. Its Greek name is hypericon, which makes no attempt to hide its strong associations with the sun. It flowers around the time of the Summer Solstice; as St. John was considered second only to Christ in the Christian calendars, he was assigned his feast day at the solar festival on the other side of the year to the one apportioned to Jesus. Governed by the Sun, St. John's wort is ruled by the element of Fire and the sign of Leo. Its magical properties include protection, divination, and promoting love and happiness, particularly when picked at Midsummer. In herbal and homeopathic medicine, it is especially valued for its potency in relieving depression.

St. Leger 5' Anglo-Irish surname, from one of the places in France called Saint-Leger, named after St. LEODEGAR. 19th C.

Sakura 2 Japanese name-sakura "cherry tree" and "cherry blossom."

Salathiel e Biblical name. It has a Hebrew meaning of "I asked (a) God," but there are question marks over whether its origins are truly Hebrew or a reworking of the Babylonian name Salti-ili.'The second part of this means " (of) my God."The first is usually dismissed as unknown, but it could be Akkadian: salatu "family," "clan," and "tribe." Salathiel is the form used in the Vulgate and in early English translations. 16th C. Var: Sealtiel, Shaltiel, Shealtiel. Ben Jonson wrote a famous epitaph for a child called Salathiel Pavy.

Salem 5' Y The city in Massachusetts, notorious for its Witch trials in 1692, in which twenty people were executed and at least five died in prison. Altogether, over a hundred and fifty people were arrested and imprisoned during the course of 1692-93. Salem was named after Salem, a place mentioned in the Bible. Heb: shalom "peace." 16th C.

Sali Y Welsh form of SALLY. Sali Mali is the central character in a very popular series of Welsh children's books by Mary Vaughan Jones.

Saligena y Epithet of Venus. L: sal "salt" and "sea" + -gena "born" -a reference to her birth from the foam of the sea.

Salim c' Arabic name-salim "safe." Var: Saleem. Fem: Salima, Turk: Selim.

Salix c~ 2 Latin: salix "willow." The noun itself is feminine. Late 19th C.

Sally y Long-established pet-form of SARAH, used independently since at least the eighteenth century. It is often found in combinations-especially Sally Ann. Var: Sallie. Bearers: Sally Rainbow, of Sally Rainbow's Dell in Hertfordshire, England, a Witch who was said to inhabit the chalk caves at a disused chalk-pit there prior to the eighteenth century; her reputation lived on long after her death, making the dell a place much feared in later years and allowing outlaws such as the famous Dick Turpin to use it as a hideout.

Salom c' An obscure Cornish saint, said to be the uncle of Selevan, but quite probably the same individual. Rendered in English by Solomon. W: Selyf.

Salome 2 Greek form of the Aramaic name Shalamzu < Shalom-zion "peace of ZION." It was used by the Judean royal family in the Roman period, most famously by the daughter of Herodias. Salome danced for Herod, who is said to have given the head of John the Baptist to Herodias as a thank-you. 16th C. Var: Salomy, Saloma, Salemy, Solomy.

Salvador cc Spanish name-salvador "savior" < L: salvator < salvo "to save." Although this is now firmly established in the minds of Christians as referring to Jesus Christ, the word was actually in use in pre-Christian times and used of anyone who saved anyone from anything. Salvator was an epithet of Jupiter. It: Salvatore. Bearers: Salvador Dali (1904-89), the Spanish surrealist artist.

Salvia Y Latin name for sage. Salvius was also a Roman gens < L: salvus "healing." 19th C.

Sam cc Y Short form of SAMUEL and SAMANTHA. Used as a boy's name in its own right since at least the nineteenth century, and sometimes given to girls too since the twentieth. In Old Irish, sam meant "summer."

Samantha Y Most books treat Samantha as a feminine form of SAMUEL, created by mixing it with ANTHERA; but this doesn't ring true. If a blend of this kind, it would almost certainly have appeared first in poetry-but it does not. Also, the source of such names tended to be purely classical. The Sam- could be from SAMELA, but the fact that no poem or play survives in which the name occurs strongly suggests that the name was not a literary coinage-though literature may still play a part. Its origins almost certainly lie with the Dutch name Sijmentje, the feminine form of Sijmens, itself the Dutch form of SIGMUND. In the seventeenth century, there were almost as many Dutch settlers in New England as English, and it is most likely that Samantha arose as an Anglicized form of Sijmentje. Its form may well have been heavily influenced by a genuine name from classical literature-PSAMATHE. This sometimes occurs in translations as Psamanthe-crucially, for one, in George Sandys's 1623 translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (8 BCE). It is also possible that some Samanthas were only ever intended to be Psamanthes, but the prevalence of the name in New England-rather than (Old) England-makes it likely that the Dutch name played the main part. Dim: SAM, Sammie, Sammy, SAMI. Most use of the name post-dates the first airing of the American sitcom *Bewitched* (1964-72), the heroine of which is Samantha Stephens-a Witch.

Samaniya y Hausa: samaniya "sky" and "the rustle of leaves in the wind."

Samara Y The word "samara" has been used in English as the name of the winged fruit of the elm, ash, or sycamore since the sixteenth century. L: samara "seed of the elm" < semen "seed." Samara is also the Latin name of the River Somme-and almost certainly, therefore, the name of a Goddess associated with it. A likely source is CC: *skmo- "rest" + PIE: *reyH "flow." Samara is also the name of more than one river in Russia, as well as a Russian city. 20th C.

Samela Y Coined by the English poet Robert Greene in the late sixteenth century for his poem "Samela," Samela is most likely a reworking of SEMELE. 19th C.

Samhain Gi Y The Irish name for the festival usually called Halloween in English. Most modern Pagans use the term now, regardless of origin or tradition, but in the past, the word was only used in Ireland. The Scots Gaelic equivalent is Samhuinn. Whether there was once an equivalent Celtic word which existed in the rest of the British Isles is unknown and sadly-unknowable. 01: sam "summer" + fuin "end." Its Welsh counterpart is Calan Gaeaf, which demonstrates a different view of the festival, as "the first day of winter." To many Pagans, Samhain is the most important festival of the year, and many consider it the New Year. Late 20th C.

Samhradan c~ Irish name-samhradh "summer" + dim. suffix -dn. A bearer of this name-probably a byname in origin-was the ancestor of the MacGoverns.

Sami c~y Arabic name-sami "exalted" and "sublime." Fem: Samia, Samiya. Sami is also used as a pet-form of SAMUEL in Hungarian and Finnish, and sometimes in English too, as a variant of Sammy, or short form of SAMANTHA.

Samir c? Arabic name-samir "conversationalist" and "entertainer"; used specifically to denote "companion in nightly talk." Fem: Samira.

Sampson c? Biblical name. Heb: "child of SHAMASH." 11th C-though confused from an early date with the Celtic Samson.

Samran y "Thai name-samran "content" and "happy."

Samson e Almost certainly a name of Celtic origin, although the form which has come down to us is probably influenced by Sampson. Samson was the name of a legendary sixth-century Welsh-Breton saint. It is tempting to suggest that it combines CC: *samo- "summer" + *seno- "old." However, by the sixth century, the "s" of these words had become "h" in Old Welsh and Old Breton-unless Samson was of Irish background, or unless the name was very old; names can preserve older, archaic forms. Generally, Samson is now treated as just a variant spelling of Sampson.

Samten c~ Tibetan name-bsam gtan "practice of concentration"-thus "meditation" < bsam "thought," "reflection," and "imagination" + gtan

"constant" and "perpetual."

Samuel c~ Hebrew: "name of (a) God" or "(a) God has heard." 12th C.
Dim: SAM, SAMI, Sammy. Get, Pol, Scand, Sp: Samuel, Hun: Samuel;
Samuka, Samu (dim); It: Samuele, Ru: Samuil, Fin: Samuli. Bearers:
Samuel Johnson (1709-84), the English polymath; Samuel Langhorne
Clemens (1835-1910), a.k.a. Mark Twain, the American writer; Sam Harris
(b. 1967), the American philosopher; Samuel Wardwell (d. 1692), a victim
of the Salem Witch Trials; Samuel Sullivan, a character in the American
television drama Heroes (2006-2010).

Samurai G~ The Japanese warrior elite. They were akin, to some extent-in
terms of notions of chivalric code-to medieval European knights, or the
Irish Fianna. Japanese: samurai "warrior."

Sanchia 2 Sanchia originated in Spain and Provence as a feminine form of
Sancho < L: sanctus "consecrated," "sacred," and "inviolable" (in general
use, the word pre-dates Christianity, but it was the Christians who gave it
the meaning "saint"). It was taken to Britain in the thirteenth century with
the marriage of King John's son Richard, Earl of Cornwall (1209-72) to
Sanchia of Provence (c. 1228-61). Var: Saint, Sanctia, Sayntes, SCIENCE,
Scientia, Sence, Sens, Sense (hist). It: Santa; Santuzza (dim).

Sanctity Y Latin: sanctitas "sacredness," "inviolability," and "holiness." In
Pagan times, it was also used to mean "integrity," "virtue," "honor," and
"moral purity." 20th C.

Sancus o~ A Sabine God, also worshipped in Rome. He was often linked
with Semo, identified with the Roman God Dius Fidius-the God of trust
and integrity. His name may possibly be connected with L: sanctus
"consecrated," "sacred," and "inviolable."

Sanday a' Y Old Norse: sandr "sand" + ey "island." "The name of more than
one Scottish island." The Gaelic is Sandaigh. Sanday is also a variant of
SANDY. 19th C.

Sandra Y Sandra arose as a short form of Alessandra, the Italian form of
ALEXANDRA. It first appeared in the ESW in the nineteenth century.

Mostly, its use post-dates the publication of George Meredith's novel *Sandra Belloni* (1887), even though it had actually first appeared twenty years previously in *Emilia in England* (1864). Dim: SANDY. Var: Xandra, Zandra (mod).

Sandy cc y Pet-form of ALEXANDER, ALEXANDRA, and SANDRA, used particularly in Scotland. Sandy is also an English surname, deriving from Sandy in Bedfordshire OE: sand "sand" + eg "island." 17th C. Var: SANDAY.

Sanem y Turkish name-sanem "idol" and "graven image"; also used of beautiful women.

Sanguine e 2 The adjective "sanguine" was used in the medieval and early modern period to mean "blood-red" < L: sanguineus "of blood." In the same period, however, it was used to denote one of the four "complexions" created by the humors, signifying a courageous and optimistic personality, hence its usual meaning today. Var: Sangwyn-a spelling used by Geoffrey Chaucer in the fourteenth century.

Sanja 2 Croatian name-sanja "dream" and "imagination." Dim: Sanjica.

Sann a' Khmer name-saan "peaceful."

Santiago c~ Spanish name-"St. JAMES." Use in the ESW since the twentieth century has sometimes been with one of the historic cities of the name in mind, rather than anything to do with St. James himself. Dim: Tiago. See also Diego.

Sao 2 `Thai name-sao "the planet Saturn."

Saoirse y Irish name-saoirse "freedom," "liberty." 20th C.

Saorla 2 Old Irish name-saer "free" (i.e. not a slave or serf) < CC: *su-viro "good man" + laith "sovereignty" and "ruler." Var: Saorlaith, Saerlaith.

Sap 2 Sap is the plant equivalent of blood, the life-giving fluid which circulates in plants and trees. Maple syrup, amber, myrrh, and rubber are

just four substances which originate as sap. Sap-green was originally the name given to a pigment made from the juice of blackthorn berries. The word derives from a Germanic root, thought to be cognate with L: sapio "to taste of" and sapa-a word used of new wine, boiled until it is thick. 20th C.

Sapatis e Mi'kmaq name, form of French Jean-Baptiste (see Baptist).

Sapience Y e Meaning "wisdom" and "understanding," Sapience was one of the Puritan virtue names adopted in the sixteenth century. Latin Sapientia-meaning "good sense," "prudence," and "intelligence," and the original source of Sapience-is also encountered.

Sapphira 2 Sapphira occurs in the New Testament, in a rather chilling tale which hints at early Christianity being a cult of control. Reading between the lines, Peter and John were getting their followers to sell up property to give them the proceeds (lay them at their feet, no less). Sapphira and her husband Ananias tried to keep a bit of the money from the sale of their land back, but Peter knew, and both of them "dropped dead" on the spot.

Amazingly, Sapphira and Ananias are still portrayed as the "bad guys" of the tale. Sapphira's name is ostensibly the feminine form of Gr: sappheiros (see Sapphire), but was probably being used to render a Hebrew name, possibly ZIPPORAH, since Sephora is the Greek and Latin form of Zipporah used in some versions of the Bible. 16th C. It is clear Sapphira, Sephora, and Zipporah have been much confused over the centuries.

Sapphire ? The sappheiros of the Ancient Greeks was probably lapis lazuli or hyacinth, and its ultimate meaning is uncertain. A possibility is sanipriya, the Sanskrit word for "sapphire" and "emerald," the literal meaning of which is "dear to (the planet) Saturn" < sani "Saturn" + priya "beloved." The Sapphire is still considered to be ruled by Saturn. It is the birth-stone for September and Virgo, although the star sign under which it is placed varies. Much associated with wisdom, clarity of thought, contemplation, truth, and love, it is used in crystal healing for disorders of the circulation system and blood. A sapphire necklace is said to cure a sore throat. 19th C. Bearers: Sapphire, one of the title characters of the British science-fiction series Sapphire and Steel (1979-82).

Sappho Y A Greek poetess, who lived in the late seventh and early sixth centuries BCE. The etymology is not known for certain. It possibly arose as a hypocoristic form of SAPPHIRA, or from Gr: saphes "clear." However, in Aeolian Greek-Sappho's own tongue-her name was actually Psappho. This may derive from Gr: psephos psaphos in some dialects-"pebble." 18th C.

Sara Y A variant of SARAH. Sara is also the Latin and Greek form, as well as the form used in many other languages today, including Italian, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish. Both Sara and Sarra were used in the Middle Ages, and Sara continued to be used alongside Sarah after Sarah was taken up in the sixteenth century. Sara e Kali-"Sarah the Black"-also known as St. Sarah, is a Goddess-like Romani figure with a cult centre at Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer. Although some have claimed that St. Sarah is the daughter of Mary Magdalene by Jesus, it is more likely, given the origin of the Romani, that her roots lie in India; there are parallels in her worship with Kali, whose name she blatantly bears, and it is tempting to suggest that Sara itself may be from SARASWATI or simply derived from San: Sara "power," "energy," "quintessence," "reality," and "strength." In Quechua, sara means "grain," and is found in the name of the Incan grain Goddess-Sara Mama, also known as Mama Zara and Zaramamma. Sara is also used as a girl's name in Kazakhstan, where sara means "yellow," and is symbolic of the sun and the steppe in summertime.

Sarabi y a' Swahili: sarabi "mirage."

Saracen c~ Latin: Saracenus-the name given to the Nomadic tribesmen of the Syro-Arabian desert, who attacked the Eastern Roman Empire from the seventh century. Hence it also came to mean "Muslim," and was commonly used in this way during the Crusades in the Middle Ages. It later took on the meaning of "Non-Christian" and thus "Pagan" and "Heathen." The origin is very uncertain. It was traditionally derived from Ar: shargi "eastern" < sharq "sunrise," but this is questioned today. 20th C. Fem: Saracena.

Sarah ? Biblical name. Heb: sarar "to rule" and "to be princely"; sarah was used of members of a royal court, hence the usual meaning given-"princess." Although the Latin form SARA was in use from the twelfth century, Sarah itself was neglected until the sixteenth century. Since the

eighteenth century, it has sometimes been used in combination with other names, in particular Sarah Ann and Sarah Jane. Var: Sarey (hist). Dim: SADIE, Sal, SALLY. Bearers: Sarah Bibber (c.1658-aft. 1692), Sarah Wildes (1627-92), Sarah Good (1655-92), all tried, convicted, and executed for Witchcraft at Salem; Sarah Bailey, a Witch in the American film *The Craft* (1996); Sarah Jane Smith, a character in the British science-fiction series *Doctor Who* (1963-) and its spin-off *The Sarah Jane Adventures* (2007-11).

Saraid 2 Irish name from mythology. 01: sdr "excellent" + fem. suffix -ait. Var: Sarait, Saraïd, Sarait.

Saran Y Mongolian name-saran "moon"; the girls' names Sarangerel and Sarantuya combine saran with gerel "light," and tuyaa "beam."

Saran a Irish name-stir "excellent" + dim. suffix -an. Borne by Saran mac Coelbad, a fifth-century Irish king.

Saranna Y An eighteenth-century coinage combining SARAH and ANNA. Var: Sarann.

Saraswati ? Hindu Goddess of knowledge, music, and the arts in general. She is also the personification of the River Saraswati, from which she probably gets her name: San: saraswati "with (many) pools" < saras "pond" and "lake" (also connected with sara "fluid"). Var: Saraswati.

Sard a' 2 A type of carnelian. L: sarda < Gr: sardion < Sardis, a city in Lydia, Asia Minor. 19th C.

Sardonyx c' y Also called banded agate, Sardonyx is a combination of SARD and ONYX. It is the name given to a type of onyx or layered chalcedony found in various colors. It is noted for its general qualities of protection, strength and good luck, promoting stamina and attracting friends. Among its healing properties is a reputation for strengthening the immune system and easing period pains. It is considered a birthstone of August. Late 19th C.

Sargon cc Akkadian: Sarru-kini < sarrum "king" + kiinu "permanent," "reliable," "true," "honest," "loyal," and "legitimate." The name of a celebrated king of Akkad of the twenty-third century BCE.

Sarla Y Romani: sarla "evening."

Sarnait ? Old Irish name-stir"excellent"+ fem. dim. suffix -nait. The name of a sixth-century saint. Anglicized as Surney and Sournay.

Sarolta Y Traditional Hungarian name. It was borne by the wife of the tenth-century Geza, Grand Prince of Magyars. The etymology is not certain; it is generally thought to derive from a Turkic word meaning "ermine." In more recent centuries, it has sometimes been used to render Charlotte in Hungarian. Sarolta (1862) is an opera by Hungarian composer Ferenc Erkel.

Sarpedon The name of more than one character in Greek mythology. The principal Sarpedon was a son of Zeus by either Laodamia or Europa. He was considered the best warrior among the allies of Troy during the Trojan War, and co-lead the Lycian forces. He was killed in battle by Patroclus. The etymology of the name is unknown and probably nonGreek.

Sasha cc Y Originally a Russian pet-form of ALEXANDER, Sasha has been used as both a male and female name in the ESW since the end of the nineteenth century. Var: Sascha, Sacha. Bearers: Sacha Baron Cohen (b. 1971), the British actor and comedian.

Saskia Y Dutch name, probably from Ger: Sachs "a Saxon." Used in the ESW since the twentieth century.

Sassandra ? The Sassandra is a river in Cote d'Ivoire and takes its name from the port at its mouth, which was originally named Santo Andre by the Portuguese.

Satia 2 A Goddess of Witches, named in Medieval French texts. L: satias "sufficiency" and "abundance," making her parallel to Abundantia and Habonde, etc.

Saturday c ? Saturday is the only day of the week which has retained its original dedication to a Roman God rather than adapted to the Anglo-Saxon pantheon. According to the traditional rhyme, "Saturday's child works hard for a living," but in some versions the attributes are altered, and it is Saturday's child who has "far to go." Neither are particularly thrilling options, perhaps accounting for Saturday being one of the least popular of the days-of-the-week names.

Saturn c~ Y Saturn is often glossed over as simply the Roman equivalent of the Greek Cronus. However, he played a much more significant role in the Roman pantheon than the Greek, hinting at his considerably greater importance in Roman religion, even after the Roman had been so heavily influenced-contaminated might be a better word-by the Greek. A God of law and agriculture, his worship culminated in the Saturnalia-the midwinter festival celebrating his birth, to which Christmas owes so much. The name has often been linked to L: satus "sown" < sera "to sow," but this is by no means certain-and may well be wishful thinking. Its true origin is possibly Etruscan, or some other source, and the meaning long lost. In astrology, the planet represents law. 20th C-as much for girls as boys; perhaps with the planet in mind, rather than the God.

Saul c Biblical name. Heb: sha'ul "borrowed," "loaned" though often translated as "asked (for)." Heb: Sha'ul, Shaul. 16th C.

Saule Y Lithuanian name-saule "sun." Saule is the Baltic Goddess of the sun, fertility and all living things, who sheds her bounteous warmth upon the Earth. Her consort is (or rather was-they separated) Menuo-the moon-and she is the mother of the planets. Her festival is June 23. Var: Saulene.

Savannah Y The name given to a grassland plain. The word derives from sixteenth-century Spanish zavana or favana, which is said to have originated as a Carib word. The original meaning is lost. The first examples of Savannah as a given name date to the late nineteenth century; its similarity to Susannah probably played a large part in its adoption. Var: Savanna. Bearers: Savannah Phillips (b. 2010), great-granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II; Savannah Levine, a Witch in Kelley Armstrong's Women of the Otherworld series (2001-).

Savass cc Turkish name-savac "war," "struggle," "fight," and "striving."

Saveli c~ Russian form of Sabellius, the name of a Roman gens, deriving from Sabelli, a poetic name for the Sabines. Borne by a third-century saint venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Var: Saveliy.

Sawan Y Thai name-sawan "heaven" and "paradise."

Sawyer a' English surname, from ME: saghe/sawe "to saw"-i.e. "someone who saws." It was made famous by Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). 17th C.

Saxon c' English surname, from one of the places called Saxton in England. Old English: Seaxe "a Saxon" or Saksi (an OE personal name, probably deriving from the same source) + tun. The ethnonym Saxon arose in the thirteenth century. Fr: Saxon < L: Saxones "Saxons" < Gr: Saxones. It is thought that it ultimately derives from the same source as sax, the name of a type of short sword or dagger used by the early Saxons. 17th C.

Sayang y Malaysian name. Malay: sayang "love."

Scandal 5' 5 "Scandal" derives from Late L: scandalum "cause of offence" or "stumbling" < Gr: scandalon "trap." It was first used in English in religious language to refer to the damage done to the Church by the inappropriate conduct of one of its members. Later, it meant something which hindered obedience to Christian doctrine or its acceptance. It passed into more general and less specific use by the end of the sixteenth century. *The School for Scandal* (1777) is a famous comedy by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. The Irish name Scandal (pronounced "SKON-al") derives from English "scandal," having entered Irish in the medieval period. Var: Scannal-the modern Irish for "scandal" and "outrage."

Scarlett 2 Now thoroughly associated with the fiery, bold, and passionate color, and sometimes spelled Scarlet accordingly, Scarlett's original use as a given name-from the late seventeenth century for men-was simply the adoption of the surname. Even the most famous bearer-Katie Scarlett O'Hara, heroine of *Gone with the Wind*-received her iconic middle name because it was her grandmother's maiden name. OF: escarlata "scarlet"-

referring to a type of cloth noted for its red color, from which the color eventually took its name. Most use post-dates *Gone with the Wind*. Var: *Scarletta*.

Scathach Y In Irish mythology, *Scathach* is the name of a female warrior, famous for training *Cu Chulainn*. Jr Ga: *scdthach* "shady."

Scepter c 2 Ancient symbol of royal power. It is usually a decorated rod-sometimes even called a wand-and in some myths clearly possesses magic powers. A good example is the story of *Math* and *Arianrhod*, where *Arianrhod* is asked to step over *Math*'s scepter to test her virginity. The act caused her to give birth to *Dylan* and *Lleu* on the spot. Gr: *sktpttron* "staff" and "scepter" < *skeptō* "to prop oneself" and "to lean on something." Related is *sktptos* "thunderbolt." 19th C. Var: *Sceptre*. Bearers: the marvelously named *Sceptre Coronation B. Price*, a child registered in Sussex, England, in 1902-presumably commemorating the coronation of King Edward VII.

Schedar Y Traditional name of Alpha Cassiopeiae, the second brightest star in Cassiopeia. Ar: *sadr* "chest" and "bosom"-a reference to its position in the constellation.

Scheherazade Y The heroine of *One Thousand and One Nights*. *Sheherazade*'s story-telling abilities ultimately save her life and win her the love of a king. Her Persian name is *Sahrzad*, and is also Anglicized as *Shahrazad*. Persian: *Bahr* "town" and "home" + *azad* "noble." 20th C.

Scholastica Y Latin: *scholasticus* "of a school," later "teacher," "scholar," and "a person of learning." 12th C.

Science Y Science is encountered as a given name in the Middle Ages as a variant of *SANCHIA*, but it did not survive. Its use since the nineteenth century is most likely a direct adoption of the word. L: *scientia*- "knowledge." It: *Scienza*.

Scilla Y Largely a short form of *PRISCILLA*, *Scilla* is also the name of a genus of flowering plants which go by the common name of squill. 18th C. L: *scilla* < Gr: *scilla* "squill" and "sea-onion." It is tempting to derive the

Greek from Akkadian: samaskillu "onion" and "shallot," which has clear links with SHAMASH.

Scorpio e Y Latin: Scorpio "scorpion." The constellation (which is also called Scorpius) is the eighth sign of the zodiac, to which those born between October 23 and November 22 belong. It represents the scorpion which killed Orion. Scorpions are said to be emotionally strong and stable, perceptive, and focused. Scorpion is the name by which two very early kings of Egypt are known, because they are depicted with a Scorpion next to their faces, perhaps a reference to the Scorpion Goddess Serket. Late 20th C. Fem: Scorpia, Scorpiona (mod).

Scothnait 2 Irish name-scoth "flower" + fem. dim. suffix -nait.

Scott c~ British surname. OE: Scott "Irishman"-only later did it mean "Scotsman"; since the Scotti who settled in Scotland in sub-Roman period were originally from Ireland, this isn't so surprising. The etymology is not certain, but most convincing is CC: *skfto- "shadow"-a reference perhaps to how bands of Irish mercenaries, harrying late Roman Britain, carried out their raids. 18th C. Much use since the nineteenth has been in homage to the prolific Scottish author Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832). Bearers: F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940), the American novelist; Scott Cunningham (1956-93), one of the most influential figures of modern Wicca.

Scout ? Gg "Scout" entered English in the sixteenth century from OF: escoute "(action of) listening" < L: ausculto "to listen attentively," used both of the action of spying and reconnoiter, and the person sent to do it. In the early twentieth century, it became much associated with the Boy Scout movement, founded by Baden Powell in 1908, and shortly after that, it began to be used as an affectionate slang term meaning "fellow," "chap," "guy," "dude," etc. By the mid-twentieth

century, it was sometimes used for girls as well as boys, and also as a nickname. Late 20th C. Bearers: Jean Louise "Scout" Finch, narrator of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960); Scout Willis (b. 1991), daughter of American actors Bruce Willis and Demi Moore.

Scry c~ ? An old word, which originally meant "to perceive," but has been used of seeing images in water or crystal as a means of foretelling the future since the sixteenth century. The word derives from "descry" meaning both "to declare" and "to reveal," as well as "to discover" < OF: descrier "to publish" and "to cry." Var: Scryer-"one who scries."

Scylla 2 A daughter of Hecate. Amphitrite used magic herbs to turn her into a monster, and from then on she inhabited a cave on the Straits of Messina, grabbing and eating passing sailors from their ships. 18th C-though much use may be as a variant of Cilla (see Priscilla).

Sea c~ Y Land, Sea, and Sky-the three realms of Celtic lore-are still held sacred by modern Druids today, and are one of the concepts believed to be represented by the triskele. The power, mystery, and majesty of the sea has inspired wonder and awe since the earliest of times, testified by the number of sea Gods and other supernatural beings associated with it, from sea-nymphs to the most terrible and terrifying of monsters. The symbolic allusions of the sea are numerous-not uncommon is the notion that it represents a boundary, not just between physical worlds, but between the physical and metaphysical. Thus it has long been symbolic of separation and of journeys, again both on the material and spiritual planes. Strangely enough, the surname Sea doesn't necessarily denote someone who lived by the sea, as Old English sce referred to any stand of water, from the sea to a pool. Another source of the surname is the closely related seoh "watercourse" and "drain." 18th C.

Seabert c~ Old English name-sce "sea" + beorht. Seabert and Seabright are surnames derived from it, found as given names from the nineteenth century.

Seaborn c~ English surname, from Old English Soebeorn-sce "sea" and beorn "warrior." 17th C.

Seachlann c~ An early Irish saint, said to have been the nephew of St. Patrick. Traditionally, it is derived from SECUNDUS, but it is probably Jr Ga: seach "past" and "following" + lann "blade." Historically, the name was only found as Mael Seachlainn "devotee of Seachlann." A variant is Mael Sechnaill-"devotee of Seachnall"-Anglicized as MALACHY.

Seaghan cc A name of early Medieval Ireland. 01: seig "hawk" + dim. suffix -dn. Var: Segan. Fem: Seahnait, Seanait, Segnat.

Seamay Y A name which seems to be a combination of SEA and MAY. 19th C.

Seamus c~ Irish Gaelic form of James. Although used for centuries by Irish speakers, it has only appeared formally in records of birth (and baptism) from the latter nineteenth century. Var: Seamus, Seamas. Bearers: Seamus Heaney (b. 1939), the Nobel prize-winning Irish poet; Seamus Finnigan, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Sean c~ Irish Gaelic form of JOHN, correctly written Sean (sean without the accents means "old" in Modern Irish Gaelic). As with other Irish names, the formal use of the name dates only to the nineteenth century, although it was in vernacular use among Irish Gaelic speakers long before that. Often Anglicized as Shaun, Shawn, Shane-this latter best represents the variant Sean.

Seanachan a Old Irish name. Its roots probably lie with CC: *seneko- "old" + dim. suffix -dn. Seanchan, the name of a seventh-century poet is a variant, while SHANNON also derives from it.

Seance Y c~ French: seance "sitting"-originally used of any meeting. Only in the nineteenth century was it used of those gatherings held specifically to attempt to communicate with the dead. Late 20th C.

Season Y The word "season" comes ultimately from L: satin "sowing" and "planting," which later acquired the meaning "time of planting."The turning of the seasons are the turning of the Wheel of the Year. However, even in temperate zones (where the seasons are most pronounced), the seasons are sometimes divided into three, rather than four-spring, summer, and winter. Fall-or autumn-is the interloper. rThe surname seems to be a corruption of Searson, meaning "son of SAER." 19th C.

Sebastian cc Latin: Sebastianus "belonging to Sebastia." Sebastia was a city in Asia Minor, which took its name from Gr: sebastos "august" and

"venerable." It was named after the Emperor Augustus. St. Sebastian is well known for his alleged

martyrdom of being shot to death with arrows. 16th C. Var: BASTIAN. Dim: Seb. Sp: Sebastian, It: Sebastiano, Port: Sebastiao, Fr: Sebastien (French). Bearers: Sebastian Cabot (c. 1484-1557), the explorer; Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), the German composer; King Sebastian of Portugal (1554-78), who became the centre of a messianic cult after his death, which maintained that he was only sleeping and would return one day, rather like King Arthur; Lord Sebastian Flyte, a principal character in Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* (1945); Sebastian, a character in Thomas Middleton's *The Witch* (1616).

Secret Y c~ 'The first examples of Secret as a given name in the nineteenth century are probably the rare English surname being used.' This may be from ME: *secretarie* < L: *secretarius* "secretary" and "scribe"-specifically those dealing with confidential matters < L: *secretum* "a secret." The English "secret" itself is from a similar source, through Fr: *secret* < L: *secretus* "secret"-literally "set apart" and "hidden." The word is used in contexts from the mundane to the mysterious, but almost always is interesting. *The Secret* (2006), is a controversial self-help book by Rhonda Byrne.

Secundus c~ Latin: *secundus* "following" < *sequor* "to follow." From the notion of "a following wind," it also took on the meanings of "favorable" and "fair," and from the sense of "following on," it also meant "next" and "second." Used as a cognomen in Roman times, there are a couple of saints of the name. 17th C. Evidence suggests it was sometimes used after a child had died and his name was bestowed on a second, such as Secundus Isaac Priest, born in Gloucestershire, England in 1694, whose older brother, Isaac Priest, had died aged two in 1685. Fem: Secunda.

Seda y Turkish name-seda "voice" and "echo."

Seirian 2 Welsh: *seirian* "glittering." 20th C.

Seiriol a' ? The name of an early Welsh saint, who gives his name to Ynys Seiriol-known as "Puffin Island" in English. The etymology is uncertain, but it may be connected with SEIRIAN or SEREN. Late 19th C.

Seisyllt c~ Old Welsh name, traditionally said to be the Welsh form of Sextilius, the name of a Roman gens < L: sextus "sixth." Why this particular Latin name should survive in Welsh is unknown, but it is the most likely source. Geoffrey mentions a legendary king of Britain called Sisillius. Another suggestion is that it is a Welsh form of Caecilius (see Cecil). Superficially, this seems more likely-especially as Seisyllt is often Anglicized as Cecil. Caecilius was a far commoner name in the Roman period. However, it is linguistically implausible as a source for Seisyllt; words which have passed into Welsh from Latin tend to retain the hard "c," or even go to "g." Var: Seisyll. Revived late 19th C.

Seithkona 2 Old Norse: seiokona "Witch" < sei3a "to enchant by a spell" and "to work a spell" + kona "woman."

Seithr c Y Old Norse: seior "spell," "charm," "enchantment," and "incantation."

Seithsla y Old Norse: sei8sla "the working of a spell." Var: Seizla

Sejarah y Malay: sejarah "history" and "chronicle."

Seker c~ The falcon-headed God of Ancient Egypt, Seker is a God of the dead most associated with Memphis. Trough his close connection to Ptah (the two Gods later merged together to become Ptah-Seker), he also began to be considered a God of craftsmen. The meaning of his name is uncertain. In Egyptian, it is skr, which also means "to decorate," "to drape," and "to array"-a reference, perhaps, to the preparation of the dead. Var: Sokar.

Selassie 2 e Amharic: slase "trinity." It is usually preceded by Haile. Haile Selassie I (1892-1975) was Emperor of Ethiopia. Among Rastafarians, he is believed to be the second incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Selene Y Greek: selene "moon." Selene is the Goddess of the moon, identified with Artemis, and the Roman Luna. 17th C. There has been considerable confused over the centuries with Selina.

Selevan e A Cornish saint. The name is usually assumed to be a Celtic form of SOLOMON, but it is more likely to have a Celtic or Latin origin,

possibly SILVANUS. Indeed, in the fourteenth century, the church is recorded as dedicated to Sanctus Silvanus. Selevan therefore may well be an example of a Pagan God turned into a Christian saint.'There is certainly evidence of Pagan worship on the site of the Church of St. Levan, in the form of a large boulder with a crack in it.'This is associated not just with Selevan, but also with Merlin. Var: Levan, Saloman. W: Selyfan.

Selija Y Lithuanian Goddess of the planet Saturn. One of the daughters of Saule.

Selina ? Whether Selina's origins ultimately lie with SELENE, or whether it is an elaboration of CELIA, is likely to be one of those questions which can never be satisfactorily answered. But, what the heck, the origin of one is the moon and the other is the sky, so it's not as though you can go terribly wrong with it.'The variant Selena, which occurs from the sixteenth century, hints strongly of connections with Selene, while Celina takes the name closer to Celia.'The latter may have been influenced by the French Celine, which arose partly as an elaboration of Celie-the French form of Celia-and partly as a shortened form of Marcelline.'The Romani girl's name Seluna is probably from Selina. Bearers: Selena Fox (b. 1949), the Wiccan priestess and founder of the Circle Sanctuary in 1974; Celine Dion (b. 1968), the Canadian singer; Selina Place, a sorceress in Alan Garner's *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen* (1960).

Selkie Y In Scottish folklore, a selkie is a type of creature that resembles a seal but can take human form. Sc Ga: sealgh "seal." Var: Selky, Silkie, SILKY.

Selma Y Selma was first taken up in Sweden from James Macpherson's *Ossianic Poems* (1761-65). In Macpherson's work, Selma is in fact the name of a castle, but either it was mistaken as a female name in Sweden, or considered unimportant. Where Macpherson got the name isn't clear-he may have based it on Jr Ga: seilbh "property," the plural of which is sealbha. Selma also features in the work of the sixteenth-/seventeenth century Kurdish poet Malaye Jaziri, where it is a variant of Selima. In Czech, Selma means "rogue," and features in the title of Dvorak's opera *Selma Sedldk* (1877)-usually translated as "The Cunning Peasant." Bearers: Selma Lagerof (1858-1940), a Nobel prize-winning Swedish author.

Selwyn c~ An English surname. In most cases, the name actually derives from SILVANUS or OF: salvagin "wild" and "ferocious." Selewine-often said to be OE: sele "half" + wine "friend"-is only recorded after the Norman Conquest, and its roots may really lie with Silvanus too. 17th C. Most use was in the late nineteenth century in honor of the former bishop George Augustus Selwyn (1809-78), after whom Selwyn College, Cambridge is named.

Semele ? In Greek mythology, Semele is the name of the mother of Dionysus, killed when Zeus revealed himself to her in his full divine splendor. As a result, Dionysus spent the rest of his gestation in his father's thigh. It is quite likely that Semele's origins lie with the'Ihraco-Phrygian Goddess ZEMELO. 19th C. Var: Semela.

Semiramis Y The Hellenized form of the name of a legendary Assyrian queen and sorceress.'The myths surrounding her, like those of many a Greek hero and mythological figure, suggest strongly that her roots lie with a Goddess-in Semiramis's case, Ishtar-though perhaps blended over time with a historical figure. For Semiramis, the most likely candidate is Sammuramat or Shammuramat, who lived in the eighth or ninth century BCE. As the legendary Semiramis is linked with doves and fish, Sammuramat's name is often derived from Akkadian: summatu "female dove." But there are problems with this; the lack of "t" in the sammu- part of the name brings it closer to summu "male dove." Moreover, this desire to link her name with the word for "dove" seems to stem largely from the legends surrounding her, forgetting that it is not absolutely certain that Semiramis and Shammuramat are one and the same or that others in Antiquity may have noted the similarity of the first element of her name, and brought the doves into the myth accordingly. It all ignores the fact there is the perfectly good Akkadian word-sammu "plant," "grass," or "herb"-which could easily be the first element and doesn't require any torturing to make it fit. The second part of her name is probably rdmu "to love." 18th C.

Semo c~ A Roman fertility God, who presided over crops. Probably L: semen "seed." His name was often linked with that of Sancus in Roman times.

Semper c~ English surname, deriving from Saint-Pierrede-Semilly in France. In Latin, semper means "always" and "forever." 18th C.

Sen cc y Chinese name. Mand: sen "forest." Also a Japanese name, depending on the character used-sen "unworldly," "hermit," "wizard," "(a) thousand." In Czech, Polish, and Slovak, sen means "dream," while in Serbian, it means "ghost," "shadow" and "phantom." In Abenaki, sen means "stone."

Senama 2 Zulu: senama "we are delighted."

Senan cc An alleged sixth-century Irish saint who also turns up in Cornwall. 01: sen "old" + dim. suffix -dn. However, it is rather telling that Senan is particularly associated with Scattery Island in the estuary of the River Shannon, and that his name is suspiciously similar to that of Sinann, one of the forms of the name of the Goddess of the river. It is not

beyond the realms of possibility, therefore, that Senan really represents a Christianization of the Goddess. Jr Ga: Senan.

Senara Y A Cornish saint, who gives her name to ZENNOR. It is tempting to relate it to Senovara, a known Brythonic personal name of the second century, which occurs on one of the curse tablets found at Bath in England. CC: *seno- "old" + perhaps *waro- "hero." 20th C.

~enay y Turkish name-sen "happy," "merry" + ay "moon."

Sencha A Druid in Irish mythology, whose role is similar to that of Merlin in the Arthurian Romances. CC: *seneko "old," or the related Jr Ga: seanachaidh "reciter of ancient lore."

Seneca c' Roman cognomen, most famously borne by the philosopher, teacher and playwright Marcus Annaeus Seneca (c.4 BCE-65 CE), tutor of the Emperor Nero. L: senex "old man." 17th C.

Senga 2 Scottish girl's name, traditionally said to be AGNES spelled backwards. Anecdotal evidence suggests this is certainly how it has been used. Another option for its origin, however, is a derivation from Gaelic:

seang "slim" and "slender." It first appeared in the nineteenth century. In modern Scots usage, it has become a slang term for a poorly educated, "lower class" young woman, stereotypically associated with certain brands of clothes and an impoverished lifestyle.

Senka y Serbo-Croatian name-senka "shadow" and "shade."

Sennacherib c~ Akkadian: Sin-ahhi-eriba "SIN has replaced brothers" < Sin + ahhu "brothers" (ahu "brother") + rabum "to replace," "to substitute," and "to make restitution." The name of a king of Assyria in the early seventh century BCE.

Sepehr c? Persian name-sepehr "heaven."

September Y 5\ The month of the Autumnal Equinox and harvest festivals, September is the time when blackberries fill the hedgerows, apples glow ripe on the trees, and leaves turn red and gold. It is the month of bounty, when the efforts of Mother Earth come to fruition for another year. The name has come to us unaltered from the Latin, and means "the seventh month"-even though it is actually the ninth. This anomaly is due to the fact the Roman calendar originally began with March; January and February were inserted at a later date. Late 19th C.

Septimius c~ Roman gens, deriving from SEPTIMUS, but now largely treated as a variant. Bearers: (Lucius) Septimius Severus (145-211 CE), the Roman Emperor. Fem: Septimia.

Septimus cc Latin: septimus "seventh" < septem "seven." Septimus was used as a praenomen by the Romans, but it was extremely rare by the first century. In earlier times, it was the source of SEPTIMIUS. 16th C-often used for a seventh child or son. Later, it may have been given with reference to the day of the week, date, month, or even hour of birth-or with no reference to the number "seven" at all. Fem: Septima. Bearers: Septimus Hodge, a character in Tom Stoppard's play Arcadia (1993); Septimus Heap, the eponymous hero of Angie Sage's series of books (2005-).

Seraphina Y Late Latin: seraphinus "of a seraphim" < seraphim/seraphin < Heb: saraph "to burn." The seraphim are usually considered to be a class of

angels. They first appear in the Bible with six wings, hands, and feet, hovering over the throne of Yahweh, and there is strong evidence they were actually perceived as fiery flying serpents. The thirteenth-century St. Seraphina-usually called St. Fina-is responsible for the name's use in Catholic lands. Var: Serafina, Seraphita. It: Serafina, Fr: Seraphine. Bearers: Serafina Pekkala, a Witch in Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy (1995-2000); Seraphita, heroine of Honore de Balzac's 1837 novel of the name.

Seren 2 Welsh name-seren "star." 20th C.

Serena y Latin: serenus "clear," "fair," "bright," and "serene." 16th C. Bearers: Serena (fl. 384-409), niece of the Emperor Theodosius; Serena, a Witch in the American sitcom Bewitched (1964-72); Serena Killingworth, a character in Lynne Ewing's Daughters of the Moon series.

Serendipity2 The word "serendipity" was invented in the mid-eighteenth century by the British politician Horace Walpole to mean "something which comes about by happy and unexpected accident." He based it on "Serendip"-a former name of Sri Lanka-which featured in a sixteenthcentury story called "The Three Princes of Serendip," the characters of which had "serendipitous" experiences. Late 20th C. The appearance in the early 1990s of a character of the name (often called simply Ren) in Australian soap opera Neighbours (1985-) may have influenced its usage.

Serenity Y Latin: serenitas "clearness," "serenity," "fair weather." 20th C. Bearers: Serenity Rose, a Witch in Aaron Alexovich's eponymous comic book series. Serenity is a 2005 film sequel to the television series Firefly (2002-3).

Sergius The gens Sergia was an important Roman family, whose name lived on after the days of the Roman Empire in four popes of the early medieval period. More than one saint also bears the name. Late 17th C. Fem: Sergia. Dut, Fr: Serge, Ru: Sergei, Sergey, Serb: Sergije, It, Sp: Sergio, Port: Sergio, Rom: Sergiu, Pol: Sergiusz.

Serpens a' A constellation. L: serpens "snake" and "serpent." It was first listed as a constellation by Ptolemy in the second century CE.

Serpent c~ 2 Latin: serpens "snake"-the English "serpent" tends to be used in more poetic or rhetorical contexts. It is often used of the snake in the Garden of Eden, and thus of the Judeo-Christian "Devil."

Serpentine Y c~ English word meaning "snake-like," and "sinuous" < L: serpens "snake." Because of the snake's association with the Judeo-Christian "Devil," it has also been used to mean "diabolical." Generally, however, it is now mostly associated with the Serpentine, a lake in Hyde Park, London, which has a sinuous-and therefore snake-like-shape, and with the crystal of the name, which gets its name from its snakeskin-like appearance. Serpentine is considered a cleansing stone, strongly associated with Earth, and can be used to aid meditation. Light-green serpentine is called the "Infinite Stone," which is considered useful for helping to put things in perspective, and particularly good as an aid to past life exploration.

Sesame Y c~ 'The humble but highly nutritious little sesame seed has been in use since ancient times. The paste is called tahini, and is the principal ingredient in halva and hummus. It has a number of medicinal uses, from treating premature hair loss to dysentery. It is also valued for its oil. Ruled by the Sun and Fire, Sesame is also used in magic as an aphrodisiac. The word features famously in the magic charm, "open sesame!" reflecting its reputation for discovering lost treasures and hidden passages, etc. L: sesamum "sesame"-still its botanical name-probably from Akkadian: Samassummu < summu "plant," "herb," and "grass" + SHAMASH. Late 19th C.

Set The Egyptian God, brother of Isis and Osiris, responsible for killing Osiris. He is a God of chaos, storms, and darkness. Set and Osiris could be perceived as the Egyptian equivalent of the Celtic Oak and Holly Kings, with Osiris dominant after the Nile's annual flood, when the Nile delta is all green and fertile, and Set in charge in the second half of the year, when the sun dries up the land and it is beset by blisteringly heat and destructive desert winds. The origin of Set's name has yet to be convincingly unraveled. Var: SETH.

Setanta e The original name of the Ulster hero Cu Chulainn. It is probably the same as the Irish Gaelic theonym Setna or Seadna "traveler" or "wayfarer," a name later borne by a number of "saints," and generally Anglicized as Sidney.

Setareh Y Persian name-setareh "star."

Seth c? Biblical name of more complex origins than often admitted. As the name of the son of Adam and Eve, it is translated as "appointed," deriving from a verb meaning "to put" or "to set." It is, however, identical with another word meaning "buttocks," and in another part of the Bible, it is used as though it derives from a word meaning "ruin" and "devastation." Seth is also used as a variant of SET. 16th C. Bearers: Seth Starkadder, a character in Stella Gibbons's *Cold Comfort Farm* (1932); Seth Clearwater, a werewolf in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series (2005-8). The *Seth Material* (1970) was the first book by Jane Roberts, which she said was dictated by a being called Seth through channeling.

Sevda 2 Turkish name-sevda "passion," "passionate love" and "desire." Closely related is Sevgi-"love" and "affection."

Seven 2 Gc Seven is a number which has profound significance. A prime number (of various kinds), it has symbolic meaning in many cultures and belief systems and has long been regarded as sacred, and associated with magic and psychic powers. The seventh child of the seventh child is often ascribed special psychic or supernatural ability. In some ways, its significance has been bolstered by humans attaching importance to it, thus we have seven days of the week, Seven Wonders of the World, Seven Pillars of Wisdom, etc. but there are many sevens in Nature too, such as the seven colors of the rainbow, the seven stars in the Pleiades (the Seven Sisters), and the seven heavenly bodies visible with the naked eye (the sun, the moon, and the five planets). The surname Seven comes from the name of the River Severn (see Hafren). 18th C. In recent years, it has increasingly been used as a girl's name, possibly influenced by the character of Seven of Nine in the American science-fiction series *Star Trek: Voyager* (1995-2001).

Severin cc English and French form of Latin Severinus "belonging to SEVERUS." It was borne by a number of saints. 17th C. Var: Severine. Fem: Severine (Fr). Bearers: Severin von Kusiemski, the principal character in Leopold von Sacher-Masoch's novel Venus in Furs (1870).

Severus a' Latin: severus "serious," "sober," "strict," "stern," and "austere". Severus was used as a cognomen in the Roman period, including by three Roman Emperors, Lucius Septimius Severus (145-211 CE), Marcus Aurelius Alexander Severus (208-235 CE) and Flavius Valerius Severus (fl. 306-7 CE). There are also a number of saints of the name. 16th C. It, Sp: Severo. Bearers: Severus Snape, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Sextilia 2 Feminine form of Sextilius, a Roman gens, which derives from SEXTUS. It was the name of the mother of the first-century CE Roman Emperor, Vitellius.

Sextus ' Roman praenomen. L: sextus "sixth" < sex "six." 16th C-usually for a sixth child or son. Bearers: Sextus Pompeius (67-35 BCE), the son of the famous Roman general, Pompey the Great.

Seychelle Y The Seychelles are a group of tropical islands in the Indian Ocean, which grew increasingly popular with holiday-makers in the last decades of the twentieth century. They were named after Jean Moreau de Sechelles (1690- 1761), a French politician. His name is probably from Agincourt-et-Sechelles in Picardy. The origin of this is unknown, though it is probably Celtic or Latin; there are Roman remains nearby. Late 19th C.

Seymour c~ English surname, deriving in part from SaintMaur-des-Fosses in France. Maur is the French form of Latin Maurus "a Moor." The other source is Seamer, Yorkshire. OE: sc? "sea" and "lake" + mere "pond" and "lake." The Seymours are an aristocratic English family, one branch of which has the Dukedom of Somerset. Its most famous member was Jane Seymour (1508-37), sister of the first duke and third wife of King Henry VIII. 17th C.

Shabaka Gc The name of an eighth-century BCE pharaoh of Egypt of the Nubian dynasty. The meaning is not known. Like Taharqa-who was probably his brother-his name is probably of Nubian or Meroitic origin.

Not enough is known about the latter even to classify it, but Nubian is considered a member of the Nilo-Saharan family of languages.

Shade c~ Y English "shade" is both a noun and a verb, derived from OE: sceadu "shade" < Proto-Germanic: *skadwa or *skadwo-z, cognate with Gr: skotos "darkness." Even today, one meaning of shade is "(comparative) darkness." The plural "shades" can refer to the abode of the dead as envisaged by the Greeks and Romans-and the ghosts of the dead themselves (as well as sunglasses, of course). Occasionally, in the singular, "shade" can mean "ghost" also. Shade is most associated now with the light darkness found under trees, often sought on hot summer days and evocatively captured in Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema's 94 Degrees in the Shade (1876). The surname derives in part from "shade" and in part from OE: scead "boundary." Var: Shayde.

Shadin Y Arabic name-shadin "young gazelle."

Shadow e Y The word "shadow" derives from the same Old English source as SHADE, and covers quite a lot of the same ground, although shadow's principal use now is to denote the shade caused by an object getting in the way of a light source. The shadows cast by living figures, particularly humans, have long been a source of fascination. Late 20th C.

Shahir c Arabic name-shahir "famous" and "well known." Fem: Shahira.

Shaka c~ The famous Zulu King Shaka (1773-1828). The meaning is not clear; there is no obvious source in Zulu. In Swahili, shaka can mean "doubt" or "trouble," and is ultimately Arabic in origin.

Shakespeare cc English surname-"shake (the) spear." Most use as a given name since the seventeenth century has been in honor of the English poet and playwright, William Shakespeare (1564-1617).

Shakir c Arabic name-shakir "thankful" and "grateful." It is closely related to Ar: shukran "thank you." Fem: Shakira- made well known in recent years by the Colombian-born singer-songwriter Shakira Ripoll (b. 1977).

Shakti 2 Sanskrit: Sakti "energy" and "power"-the name given to the Divine Force, specifically the Divine Feminine force pervading the whole universe. Personified, Shakti is perceived as a Goddess and often called "The Great Divine Mother." She is sometimes regarded as a combination of Lakshmi, Parvati, and Saraswati.

Shala Y A Mesopotamian corn Goddess-also associated with war-whose name probably derives from either Akkadian: sala'u "to shoot" or salu "to submerge." She was associated by the Babylonians with the constellation Virgo, and is the consort of Shulman. She may be one and the same with SHULAMITE.

Shalmaneser c~ Akkadian: Sulmanu-Asaredu "Shulman is the most distinguished" < SHULMAN + asaredu "to be first" and "to be most distinguished" < atru "place" + edu "one," "single," "single," and "lone."The name of a number of kings of Assyria between the thirteenth and eighth centuries BCE.

Shaman e The word Shaman originated in Central Asia, though its ultimate source is uncertain. It may, just possibly, have traveled through Mongolian and Chinese from San: sramana "monk." It reached English through Russian and German in the late seventeenth century with the meaning of priest or priest-doctor, and it wasn't long before it was being used of any such practitioner in similar tribal societies, such as the medicine-men of the Native Americans. In modern use among the Pagan community, the focus is very much on the spiritual aspect of Shamanism, and the Shamanic practice of traveling between the mortal and spirit worlds. 20th C.

Shamash cc A major Assyrian God, who presides over the sun and justice. Akkadian: samsu "sun." Late 20th C.

Shamrock c' Y The Irish name for the white clover, which has become a symbol of Ireland. It is the Anglicized form of Jr Ga: seamrog < seamar "clover."The tripartite nature of its leaves were said to have been used by St. Patrick to illustrate the Christian doctrine of the Trinity-but it could equally stand for the Pagan concept of the Triple Goddess, etc. 19th C.

Shan Y In English, Shan represents a twentieth-century phonetic spelling of SIAN, with SHANI as its pet-form. The variant Sharn reflects the pronunciation. Shan is also a Chinese girl's name. Mand: shan "glittering" and "furtive glance"; shan "mountain." "This is one of the eight principles of reality in Taoism, generally represented by symbols known as "trigrams."

Shango e The Yoruba God of thunder and lightning.

Shani 2 Generally, a pet-form of SIAN. In Swahili, shani means "(rare or unexpected) occurrence," "accident," "mishap," "novelty," "marvel," "curiosity," "exquisiteness," and "adventure."

Shania 2 Said to mean "on my way" or "I'm on my way" in the Native American language Ojibwe, Shania is in fact only very loosely based on the Ojibwe for "I am going"- ezhaayaan. It was adopted as the stage name of the Canadian singer Shania Twain (b. 1965), whose birth name is Eileen. Late 20th C.

Shannon Y Irish surname, the Anglicization of more than one surname, including MacGiolla tSheanain "son of the servant of SENAN" and O Seanachain "descendant of SEANACHAN." Shannon is also the name of one of the principal rivers of Ireland. In Modern Irish Gaelic, it is called the An tsionainn, and is usually derived from sean "old" + abhainn "river." However, there is a Gaulish God Sionnus, a God of healing, whose name is derived from CC: *spionV- "foxglove," from which 01: sion "foxglove" also derives. We know that the Shannon has a Goddess-variously called Sionna, Sinann, and Sinend-and it is possible that the true origin of the Shannon is the same as the Gaulish God. A story about Sionna occurs in the Dindsenchas, in which she makes a pilgrimage to Connla's well, where the Salmon of Knowledge feeds on the hazelnuts. Her quest was inspiration and wisdom. On her return, after crossing the Shannon, she "tasted death"- and thus gave her name to the river. 18th C-since the late twentieth century, it has mostly become a girl's name.

Shanti Y Indian name. San: s`anti "peace," "tranquility," "bliss," "prosperity," and "calmness of the mind."

Shanumma 2 Akkadian name for the planet Mars.

Sharada Y Sanskrit: s(arada "autumn" and "fall." Sharada is a name of Saraswati.

Sharon 2 e A biblical place name-of two places, in fact, one of which is a fertile plain. "Plain" is often given as its meaning, although the Hebrew is subjected to considerable torture to get there from the original yashar "was straight." There are a number of other Hebrew possibilities regarding its etymology, from a root meaning "body armor" to another which gives words such as "umbilical cord," and another "bracelet." However, it is just as possible that the name derives from a non-Hebrew source altogether. When first used by Puritans in the sixteenth century, it was mostly given to boys, such as the historian Sharon Turner (1768-1847). It is now entirely a girl's name. Dim: Shaz. Var: Sharonapopularized by the song "My Sharona" (1979) by The Knack. Bearers: Sharon Tate (1943-69), the American actress murdered by followers of Charles Manson; Sharon Knight (b. 1966), the American Pagan musician.

Sharp c ? English surname. OE: scearp "sharp," "quick," and "smart." Late 17th C. Var: Sharpe.

Shasha c5 Y Shona: shasha "champion." Also a variant of SHASHI.

Shashi Y Indian name. San: rasa "hare." It is used specifically of the image of the hare on the face of the moon, and figuratively of the moon itself. It is often combined with CHANDRA-"moon." Var: SHASHA, Shashaka.

Shasta Y e Shasta's use as a given name from the twentieth century is principally an adoption of the name of the flower, the Shasta daisy. It arose as a hybrid in the nineteenth century and was named after the Shasta people of California, the meaning of whose name is unknown. Shasta is also the name of a South Indian God. San: Basta "taught." He is equated with the God Aiyanar, a protective God of villages.

Shaula Y Traditional name of Lambda Scorpii, Shaula is the second-brightest star in Scorpio. Ar: shal "to lift" and "to carry"-a reference to the Scorpion lifting its tail. 20th C.

Shay cc Phonetic spelling of Shea, an Irish Gaelic surname, itself a shortened form of O'Shea, from O Seaghdha "descendant of Seaghdha." Seaghdha was a byname, an adoption of Jr Ga: seaghdha "learned" < seagh "esteem" and "regard." 19th C. Var: SHEE.

Shayan c~ Persian name-shayan "worthy." Var: Shaya.

Shee G~ Y Shee is partly a variant of SHAY. It is also the usual Anglicized form of SI, and used in phrases such as deena shee "people of the mounds" and lhiannan shee "fairy lovers." 19th C.

Sheila 2 Anglicized form of Irish Gaelic She, the Irish form of CELIA- although it is sometimes said to be CECILIA. Just to muddy the water further, in the past it was rendered back into English with Julia. Used across the ESW since the nineteenth century, it is familiar as the mild Australian slang meaning "woman." Bearers: Sheila Hancock (b. 1933), the British actress; Sheila Morris, a character in the American television drama Charmed (1998-2006).

Shelby Y e A rare surname of uncertain origins. It is sometimes said to be a variant of the surname Selby, but this is unconvincing. More likely, it comes from the name of a "lost" village or simply some lonely farmstead, long vanished. The second element is ON: by "farmstead" and "settlement," the first could be OE: scelf "shelf." 18th C. Used generally for girls in the twentieth century, its use has principally been promoted by the characters of Shelby Barret in *The Woman in Red* (1935), and Shelby Eatenton in *Steel Magnolias* (1989).

Shell 2 6~ Generally treated as a short form of MICHELLE and SHELLEY, Shell has actually been used as a name in its own right since at least the nineteenth century, when it represented the use of the surname. This derives from Shell in Worcestershire, England. OE: *scila "hut" or "shelter." In more recent times, Shell's use may represent the direct adoption of English "shell" < OE: sciell "shell." Shells have long carried symbolic meaning; in ancient times the scallop in particular was regarded as a symbol of fertility and associated with Venus, who is often depicted with them. A shell's hardness also makes it a symbol of protection. It is also representative, for obvious reasons, of the sea. Var: Seashell (mod).

Shelley Y c~ Now generally treated as a pet-form of MICHELLE, Shelley is also a surname deriving from a number of places of the name. OE: scelf "shelf" (i.e. a shelflike piece of land) + leak. 17th C. Some use since the nineteenth has been in honor of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822). Var: Shelly, Shellie.

Shenandoah 2 d Shenandoah's use as a given name owes much to the nineteenth-century folk-song "Oh Shenandoah" about the River Shenandoah in Virginia. Its etymology is very uncertain; sensible options include "the river through the spruce-trees" and "high mountain river." It has the popular-but utterly unverified-meaning "daughter of the stars," which is almost certainly an invention. 20th C.

Shenzi a' 2 Swahili: shenzi "Pagan" and "Heathen"-and also "uncouth," "uncivilized" and "ill-mannered."

Sheratan c~ 2 Traditional name of Beta Arietis. Also known as Sharatan, the name is a special plural form-used to mean "two"-of the Arabic `isharat "sign" and "indication," essentially giving it the meaning "the two signs" or "dual signs." "This peculiar name is probably down to the fact that in the past it also included its close neighbor Gamma Arietis. Exactly what the two stars were signs of is not known.

It is unlikely to be a reference to the fact that the Vernal Equinox used to occur in Aries, as that was over two thousand years ago, and the Arabic names of the stars date to the medieval period.

Sheridan c 2 Irish surname, made famous by the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816), and largely used in his honor. It is an Anglicized form of Irish O Sirideain from the byname Siridean < siride "wild man" (sometimes translated as "elf") + dim. suffix -an.

Sherlock c~ English surname. OE: scir "bright" and "shining" + loc(c) "lock (of hair)," used of someone who was fairhaired or blonde. 17th C. Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective Sherlock Holmes made the name famous at the end of the nineteenth century.

Sherman cc English surname. OE: scearra "sheers" + mann "man"-a shearer not of sheep, but of cloth. 18th C. Use in America since the nineteenth century has often been in honor of William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-91), a general during the Civil War, who also gave his name to the tank. Sherman's unusual middle name Tecumseh (meaning "panther passes across" in Shawnee), was the name of a Shawnee chieftan and hero who lived from 1768 to 1813.

Sherry Y Sherry can either be treated as an adoption of the word "sherry" under the influence of CHERIE, or (what is possibly more appropriate) a variant of Cherie under the influence of "sherry" The fortified wine derives its name from the Spanish town of Jeres (formerly Xeres) de la Frontera.

Shideh y Persian name-khurshid "sun." Var: Sheedeh.

Shila Y Indian name. San: sila "integrity," "moral character," "custom," and "nature." Var: Sheela.

Shiloh Y Shiloh is principally a biblical place name. Heb: shiloh "tranquility," "peace," and "calmness." It also occurs in what is taken to be a messianic title with disputed meaning. The most likely is "Oh, I wish that!" or "Oh, may it be!" thus it is interpreted as meaning "wished-for." Shiloh was used as the name of one of the stations on the Culdee Fell Railway in W. V. Awdry's The Railway Series (1945-). It was put under the spotlight when Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt gave it to a daughter born in 2006.

Shimti ? The Akkadian Goddess of fate. Akkadian: simtu "fate" and "destiny."

Shin o~ Japanese and Korean name. Jp: shin "true" and "reality"; Korean: sin "God," "divinity," "faith," "soul," "joy," "power," and "penis." The Korean boy's name Shinil combines shin with it "one," "unity," "day," and "work."

Shine Y c~ Use of Shine as a given name dates to the nineteenth century, and in the past was largely an adoption of the surname, from OE: sciene "beautiful" and "attractive." The English noun derives from the verb from

the same source, and originally meant "brightness" and "beam" or "ray," taking on its meaning of "luster" or "sheen" at the end of the sixteenth century.

Shiphrah y Biblical name. Heb: shiphrah "beauty," "grace." 17th C. Var: Shifra.

Shir cc Persian name-shir "lion'.

Shiri y Shona: shiri "bird."

Shirin Y Persian name-shirin "sweet," "fresh," "soft," "amiable," and "tuneful." Var: Shireen.

Shirley Y c~ English surname, from various places of the name. OE: scir "bright" and "shining" + leah. As the surname of an aristocratic English family, it made a fairly early appearance as a male given name in the early seventeenth century. Charlotte Bronte's novel Shirley (1849) raised the name's profile as a female name. Bearers: Shirley Temple (b. 1928), the American actress; Shirley Williams (b. 1930), the English politician.

Shisha 2 Shona: shisha "beautiful"; in Swahili, it means "hourglass."

Shiva cc Y Sanskrit: Siva "bliss," "favorable," "benign," and "gracious." Shiva is one of the principal Gods of Hinduism, although the name was first used as an epithet of Rudra. Var: Sheeva. Shiva is found as a Romani boy's name in nineteenth century England.

Shivan c~ Kurdish name-shivan "shepherd." Var: ~ivan.

Shobhana Y Indian name. San: tobhana "beautiful" and "shining." It is the name of one of the Pleiades in Hindu mythology.

Sholeh y Persian name-sho'leh "flame."

Sholpan Y Kazakh name for the planet Venus. Used as a girl's name in Kazakhstan.

Sholto c~ The legendary ancestor of Clan Douglas. It derives from Sc Ga: sioltach "sower" or "begetter" < siolaich "to seed" and "to beget." Used from the eighteenth century, by and large by the Douglas clan.

Shona Y Anglicized form of Seona-a Scots Gaelic form of JOAN-although it is often said to be from its diminutives Seonag or Sebnaid (see Janet). Outside Scotland, Shona is sometimes used in honor of the African people of the name, and their language.

Shulamite Y Shulamite is the name of the "heroine" of the biblical Song of Songs, one of the oddest and most incongruous pieces in the Bible. Ostensibly, there is nothing "religious" about it at all; it is all about love-and sex. Naturally, theologians have striven to give it a Judeo-Christian interpretation, and it is usually treated as an allegory of Yahweh's love for the people of Israel, or Christ for his Church, and variations on the themes therein. However, there isn't actually anything internally in the Song of Songs to suggest this, and it bears a considerable resemblance to many secular Assyrian and Sumerian love poems. In truth, its inclusion is probably accidental-or perhaps it found its way into the canon thanks to some biblical book compiler with a sense of humor. Shulamite is usually referred to as the Shulamite in translations, implying it is an adjective of nationality rather than a name. The usual interpretation is that it is a variant of Shunamite, meaning "from Shunem," a village or small town which gets a few mentions in the Bible. In particular, it was the home town of Abishag, which has led some to identify "the Shulamite" with Abishag-the young woman who "looked after" King David when he was an old man. All this, however, may well be a red herring to detract away from what may well be its true significance: that Shulamite may actually be the name of a Goddess, and that her lover in the song is a God, none other than Shulman. Shulman is frequently identified with Solomon, to whom the Song of Songs is often ascribed-an alternative name for the book is even the Song of Solomon. The Hebrew form of the name-Sulammit- could very easily be a Hebraized form of Shulmanitu-the feminine form of SHULMAN, and thus another name of Shala. Var: Shulammite, Shulamith. 18th C.

Shulman c~ A Mesopotamian God of fertility and war. Known as Shulmanu amongst the Assyrians and Babylo nians, he may be connected

with the Phoenician Eshmun. Akkadian: sulmu "health" and "well-being."
Var: Shalman.

Shuna Y The name of two islands in Scotland. ON: seer "sea" + ev
"island." 20th C.

Shuri y A Romani girl's name, recorded in the nineteenth century. Its
origins are not at all clear, but it may, possibly, be related to SURYA, or
derive from Persian: suri "red." In Swahili, shuri means "person with extra-
large buttocks."

Shy c~ Y Old English: sceoh < Old Teutonic: *skeuhw- "to fear." Its
original meaning was "easily frightened"; it came to mean "timid" in the
seventeenth century. 19th C.

Si 2 e In Irish, si-and the older form Sidhe-often Anglicized as SHEE,
actually mean "fairy mound," but in just the same way "fairy" was once a
word meaning "fairy realm" and came to be applied to the Fay themselves,
si is now frequently used to mean "fairy" too. It often occurs in
combinations, such as bean si "Banshee," literally "woman of the fairy
mound," and leannán si, "lover of the fairy mound." The Scots Gaelic
equivalent is Sith, which also means "peace" and "reconciliation." In the
modern language, it is found in combinations such as leannan sith-the
Scottish equivalent of the leannán si-and beansith "female fairy." The
Modern Scots Gaelic for a male fairy is Sithiche, and for a fairy mound,
sithean. Late 20th C.

Siam Y c~ The old name for Thailand. It is still preserved in expressions
such as "Siamese cat" and "Siamese twins." 19th C. In Chinook, Siam
means "bear."

Sian Y Welsh form of JANE, sometimes Anglicized as SHAN. It spread
from Wales in the twentieth century. Dim: Siani. Bearers: Sian Phillips (b.
1933), a Welsh actress.

Siberina 2 This seems to be a corruption of SABRINA, and was in use
amongst the English Romani in the nineteenth century. Var: Saibarini.

Sickle Y An ancient tool-essentially a hand-held scythe used for harvesting. As such, it is a symbol of the harvest and agriculture-it featured with this meaning on the flag of the former Soviet Union, along with the hammer, which stood for industry. The curved shape of the sickle has meant that it is also used of a crescent moon. An epithet of the moon God Yarikh is "Lord of the Sickle," and the sickle also features in Greek mythology as a symbol of Cronos. The ancient Druids

were said to have used golden sickles to gather mistletoe. The origin of the word isn't entirely certain; it has roots in the Germanic languages, but its ultimate source may be L: *secula* "sickle" < *seco* "to cut."

Siddha c? Y Indian name. San: *siddha* "established," "settled," "accomplished," "successful," and "perfected." It also can mean "demigod" and "sorcerer." The related *siddhadesa* means "fortune-teller," "prophet," and "prediction of a seer."

Siddhartha e Sanskrit: *siddhartha* "one whose goal has been achieved" < *siddha* "established," "settled," "accomplished," "successful," and "perfected" + *artha* "(object of) desire," "wish," "purpose," and "wealth." Siddhartha Gautama lived sometime between the seventh and fifth centuries BCE and is the founder of Buddhism.

Siderea Y Latin: *sidereus* "starry" < *sidus* "star." It is the source of the English adjective *Sidereal* "of the stars." The closely related *Sideral* "of the stars" and "caused by the stars" derives from L: *sideralis* "of the stars."

Siderion a' Latin: *siderion* "vervain" and "ironwort" < Gr: *siderion* < *sideros* "iron."

Sidheag Y Old Scots Gaelic name-*sidheach* "wolf" + dim. suffix -ag. It has been resurrected in recent years. Masc: *Seitheach*.

Sidney c~ Y English surname. It probably derives from OE: *sid* "broad" + *ieg* "island," although it is traditionally derived from Saint-Denis in Normandy. As nice as this would be-giving the name a strong link with DIONYSUS-firm evidence for it is limited to a Roger de Sancto Dionysio in the thirteenth century, and a John Seyndenys in the fourteenth, but there

is no proof that either was the ancestor of an actual Sidney. The case for the prosaic AngloSaxon origin is, sadly, much stronger. Among bearers of the surname are the Elizabethan poet Sir Philip Sidney (1554-86), who is responsible for some of the name's use for boys since the seventeenth century. The parliamentarian and political philosopher Algernon Sidney (1623-83) is also likely to have inspired use of the name. The name has also long been used as a variant of SIDONY. Dim: Sid. Var: Sydney. Bearers: Sid James (1913-76), the South Africanborn British actor, whose birth name was Solomon Cohen. *Memoirs of Miss Sidney Bidu ph* (1761) was a novel by Irish writer Frances Sheridan.

Sidony ? Anglicized form of Sindonia, a sixteenth-century Roman Catholic name coined from Late Latin: sindon, a medieval word designating a piece of fine linen. The word was used from the sixteenth century with reference to what is now known as the Turin Shroud. In the early sixteenth century, the Feast of the Winding Sheet on April 25 was established, and Sindonia began to be bestowed upon girls born on or around that date. In early examples, the "n" is often preserved, but it increasingly disappeared during the seventeenth century. Var: Sindonie, Sindony, Sindenay, Syndony, Sidonia, SIDNEY, Sydney. Fr, Ger: Sidonie.

Siduri Y A Mesopotamian Goddess of brewing and winemaking, who plays the classic role of the wise bartender in the epic Gilgamesh, extolling the virtues of simply enjoying the pleasures of life. Her name is probably Hurrian-a people who inhabited North-East Mesopotamia-and perhaps means "young woman."

Siegfried c Old German name-sign "victory" + frithu "peace." It became well known in the ESW through Richard Wagner's opera Siegfried (1876). Bearers: Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967), the British poet, most famous for the poetry he wrote during the First World War; Siegfried Farnon, a character in James Heriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* series (1970-95).

Siena, Sienna Y The name of the historic Tuscan city, which has been inhabited for well over two thousand years. Its name in Roman times was Saena Julia, and it was said to have been founded by a man called Senius, a son of Remus, but the real etymology is very uncertain and probably Etruscan. It was first used as a name in the nineteenth century, when

children were sometimes named after the place where they were born or to which there was some other connection-the famous example being Florence Nightingale. The variant Sienna is the usual form used for the variety of clay to which the town gives its name. It is used by artists to make brown oil-paint; raw sienna is a warm mid-brown shade, while burnt sienna is darker and redder. Bearers: Sienna Miller (b. 1981), the American-born British actress.

Sierra Y Spanish: sierra "mountain range." It is applied to particularly jagged mountain ranges, such as Sierra Nevada and Sierra Leone, where the peaks resemble the teeth of a saw-the word's ultimate derivation is L: serra "saw." 19th C. An early example is one William Holman Sierra Leone Prince, whose birth was registered in Shoreditch in 1842. Contrary to the assertions of some, the name is not remotely Irish; this myth has probably arisen due to the fact

that Sierra has evolved a number of spelling variants in the late twentieth century, such as Cierra, which bears a passing resemblance to CIARA. This doesn't make it Irish.

Sigmund c~ Old English name-sige "victory" + mund "protection." It was reinforced at the time of the Norman Conquest by the German cognate Sigismund, which was brought by the Normans, but was absorbed by SIMON in the twelfth century. It survived in Germany, however, and examples of Sigmund and Sigismund are found in the ESW again from the sixteenth century. The Old Norse cognate Sigmundr was a byname of Odin.

Signy Y Signy features in the tragic Old Norse romance of Hagbard and Signy, in which Hagbard ends up executed by hanging, and Signy and all her handmaidens burn to death. The origin of the name isn't entirely clear; she is sometimes called Signhild, but Signy is the older form. It may be from ON: signa "to mark with the sign of Thor's hammer" and "to dedicate to a God." 20th C.

Sigourney ? The name of a Huguenot family which settled in England and America in the late seventeenth century. The origin is uncertain, but it may be a corruption of Saint-Germain; Germain is the French form of Latin Gerinus, and derives from the same source as WARREN. James Butler Sigourney

(1790-1813) was an American naval hero, after whom more than one American ship has been named. The name was used briefly by F. Scott Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby* (1925), and lifted from that novel as a stage name by the American actress who has made the name famous Sigourney Weaver (b. 1949). Her birth name was Susan. Most general use post-dates her rise to fame.

Sigrid y The modern form of Old Norse *Sigr* "victory" + *friðr* "fair" and "beautiful." It was brought to Britain by the Vikings, and survived the Norman Conquest for a time in Latin forms such as *Sigrida* and *Sigerith*. It is still used in Scandinavia, and has sometimes been used in the US again since the nineteenth century. Dim: *Siri*. Bearers: Princess Sigrid of Sweden (1566-1633); Sigrid `Thornton (b. 1959), the Australian actress.

Sigrun Y A Valkyrie in Norse mythology. ON: *sigr* "victory" + *runn* "secret lore," and "rune."

Sigtrygg a Old Norse name-*sigr* "victory" + *tryggr* "trusty," "faithful," and "true." A number of Viking kings of Dublin bore the name. It Ga: *Sitric*.

Sigtyr 6 Byname of Odin. ON: *sigr* "victory" + *tyr* "(a) God."

Sigune Y A character in Wolfram von Eschenbach's early thirteenth-century epic poems *Parzifal* and *Titurel*, in which Sigune is the cousin of Parzifal and the subject of a tragic love affair. Eschenbach may have derived the name from OG: *sign* "victory," but given Sigune's tragic love story, a more likely source is *SIGNY*. 19th C. Var: *Siguna*.

Sihir cc Turkish: *sihir* "magic," "Witchcraft," "charm," "magical influence," and "magical power."

Silas Silas almost certainly represents a hypocoristic form of *SILVANUS*. It is the name of a character in the New Testament, who is often identified with another individual called *Silvanus* in a different part of the text. 16th C. *Silus* is a variant encountered among the Romani. Bearers: Silas Marner, the hero of George Elliot's *Silas Marner* (1861); Silas, the assassin-monk in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* (2003); Silas, a character in Neil

Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* (2008); Silas Heap, a wizard in Angie Sage's *Septimus Heap* (2005-) series.

Silena Y Feminine form of SILENUS. The name is mostly used in Italy, but is found in the ESW from the eighteenth century, although it may in many cases have been treated as a variant of SELINA.

Silence 2 Adoption of the English word "silence" < L: *silentium* "silence." It was first used by the Puritans in the sixteenth century, sometimes occurring in the Latinized form *Silencia*. In those days, it was bestowed with the charming notion that women should not speak unless their menfolk permitted or requested it, especially in Church, as St. Paul decreed. Nowadays, the more appealing aspects of "silence" may well be in people's minds when it is used. In this ever noisier world, silence is now equated more with tranquility, peace, and an absence of the noises of modern living. It is regarded a desirous quality, conducive for meditation. *Le Roman de Silence* is a thirteenth-century romance written by Heldris of Cornwall, in which the heroine is called Silence.

Silene Y Scientific name for the red and white campion, coined by Linnaeus in the eighteenth century from SILENUS. 19th C.

Silenus c' A satyr in Greek mythology, companion of Dionysus. He is often said to be a son of Hermes or Pan.

Sometimes, the name seems to occur as a generic name for satyrs (especially drunken ones), who are often portrayed as wild, rowdy, uncouth beings, rollicking around in the woods. Although usually drunk as a skunk, Silenus was wise, and had the gift of prophecy. The etymology is uncertain. 19th C.

Silky ? Adjective deriving from "silk," Silky is a popular name for fairies in children's stories. It is also a variant spelling of SELKIE. Early 20th C.

Silvanus c~ A Roman God of the woods and wild places. L: *silva* "woodland." His Etruscan counterpart is *Selvans*. Silvanus was used as a cognomen in some Roman families; it also occurs in the Bible-where it may have the short form SILAS-and is borne by some other saints. 16th C.

Var: Sylvanus, Sylvan. Silvan-originally an English adjective deriving from silva and meaning "woodland dweller" or "belonging to the woods," etc.- has also been used as a given name since the nineteenth century. Fem: Sylvana. Fr: Silvain, It, Sp: Silvano.

Silver c ? A precious metal known and worked by humankind for thousands of years. Pure white and highly reflective when polished, it has understandably been associated with the moon since ancient times. It is believed to enhance the power of the moon, provide a strong link between the physical and astral planes, and promote clarity of vision and psychic awareness. Small wonder it is such a favorite among Witches and Wiccans. Its beauty, combined with the ease of working it, has long made it a favorite metal for jewelry and other decorative items. Among many examples is the important first-century BCE Gundestrup Cauldron, famous for depicting a horned figure widely believed to represent Cernunnos. Silver has also been used medicinally since ancient times, valued for its antibacterial and anti-viral properties. English "silver" derives from OE: siofor and has cognates in all the Germanic languages. Related forms occur in the Baltic-Slavic family too, although its ultimate origin is unknown. The surname derives from it, and was probably used of a silversmith or someone with silver hair. 18th C-though it may have been in use earlier, representing not the metal directly but the surname. Its use in more recent times, however, is almost certainly simply an adoption of the metal. Bearers: Silver Ravenwolf (b. 1956), the pen name of Jenine E. Trayer, one of the best-known contemporary Pagan writers; Silver, a character in the British sciencefiction series Sapphire and Steel (1979-82).

Simaetha 2 A Witch who features in a poem by the third century BCE Greek poet Theocritus. She is depicted as a beautiful young woman weaving a spell to regain her lover. The name has since been given to a genus of Australian spiders.

Simba c~ Y Swahili: simba "lion." It is also used figuratively to mean both "brave person" and "bloodthirsty person." Other uses are "fine healthy child" and "scorpion shell." Simba has become well known as the name of the main character in Disney's The Lion King (1994).

Simeon c~ Biblical name. It is usually derived from Heb: shaman "to hear," with Simeon translated as "he who hears" or "he has heard." Most use dates from the sixteenth century. Dim: Sim. Bearers: Simeon ben Shetach, a second-century BCE Pharisee in charge of the Jewish law-court, who sentenced to death eighty Witches in Ashkelon in just one day-one of the earliest-known Witch-hunts in history.

Simge Y Turkish name-simge "symbol."

Simmer 2 d British surname, which arose from the Scots form of SUMMER. The word "simmer" meaning "at the simmer" is an adoption of the verb, used of something which is kept just below the boil; it derives from an older form, "simper," of unknown etymology. 19th C.

Simon c? Greek: Simon < simos "snub-nosed." An Ancient Greek name used in the New Testament to render the Hebrew Simeon. In mythology, it was borne by one of the Telchines (see Telchis). Simon was very popular in the Middle Ages, being the "real" name of St. Peter, and a number of surnames derive from it including Simon, Simons, Simmonds, Simms, Simpson, Simkins, and Symes, etc. In Ireland, Simon was formerly used to render Senan. Var: Simond, Symond (hist). Dim: Si, Sim. Dut, Fr, Ger: Simon, Sp: Simon, It: SIMONE, W: Simwnt, Pol: Szymon. Bearers: Dr Simon Forman (1552-1611), the astrologer, herbalist and necromancer; Simon Templar, the hero of Leslie Charteris's The Saint novels (1928-63); Simon, the lead character in the film Simon, King of the Witches (1971); Simon Grace, one of the main characters in Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Blacks Spiderwick Chronicles (2003-4).

Simone Y French feminine form of SIMON. Used in the ESW since the early twentieth century. Sp: Jimena, XIMENA, It, Cz, Slo, Rom: Simona, It: Simonetta (dim). Bearers: Simone de Beauvoir (1908-86), the French writer and philosopher.

Sin J The Akkadian God of the moon, the equivalent of the Sumerian Nanna. Akkadian: sin "moon." The word is not remotely related etymologically to the English "sin," which is from OE: synn "moral wrongdoing"; its original meaning is thought to have been "true" from PIE: *es-ont- "to be."

Sina Y A short form of names ending in -sina, in particular THOMASINA, but also names such as Jamesina and Rosina. The word sina also has numerous meanings in other languages; in Portuguese, it means "destiny," "fortune," and "fate." In Hindi it means "breast," while in a number of Bantu languages, it means "base of a tree trunk." In Sumerian, it means "two," which is perhaps quite appropriate (although completely coincidental) given the fact that Thomasina, the main source of the name, derives from a word meaning "twin." Used independently since at least the nineteenth century.

Sinaminta Y A Romani girl's name of very uncertain origins. Just possibly, it represents a mangled form of CINNAMON; a variant spelling of cinnamon in earlier times was "cynament" which is very close to some of the variant forms of Sinaminta, namely Cinamenta, Ciniment, Cinnamenty, Cinnaminta, Sinamanty, Sinamenty, Sinimenta, Synamenta.

Sincere cc The adoption of the English adjective "sincere" as a given name dates to the seventeenth century. L: sincerus "clean," "pure," "whole," and "entire."

Sincerity Y Latin: sinceritas "purity" and "integrity." Sincerity, surprisingly enough, doesn't seem to have been adopted as a given name by the Puritans. With one possible late seventeenth-century exception, it is only found as a given name from the late twentieth century.

Sinclair c' Scottish surname, taken from one of the places called St. Clair in Normandy. In the form St. Clair, it is the surname of the Earls of Rosslyn, of Rosslyn Chapel fame. Bearers: (Harry) Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951), the American novelist and playwright. 18th C.

Sine, Sine Y Irish and Scots Gaelic form of JANE (or rather JEAN) respectively. In Scotland, Sine is Anglicized as Sheena or Shena.

Sinead Y Irish Gaelic form of JANET. Bearers: Sinead O'Connor (b. 1966), the Irish singer-songwriter.

Sinfai Y Romani girl's name, found from at least the nineteenth century, and probably a corruption of CYNTHIA. Var: Senfie, Sinfie, Sinfiy, Synfie.

Sinti 2 e Chickasaw: sinti "snake."

Siobhan y Irish Gaelic form of JANE-or rather JOAN. It spread to the ESW in the twentieth century, and has since acquired numerous Anglicized spellings and variations, such as Chevonne, Chivonne, Shavaun, Shavon, Shavonne, Shevaun, Shevonne, Shivaun, Shivon, and Shivonne. Some of these have since been elaborated too, to create names such as Shavona, Shavonnah, Shavannah, Shavoni, etc. Shin is a Irish Gaelic variant used particularly in Ulster and Donegal.

Siofra Y Irish Gaelic: siofra "sprite" and "changeling." It is used in particular of fairy children swapped with human babies. 20th C.

Siomhaith Y Irish Gaelic name usually derived from sith "peace" + maith "peace"; technically, the first element could be si "fairy" (the two words are related). Var: Siomha.

Sion c' Welsh form of JOHN. It was largely the preserve of Welsh translations of the Bible until the twentieth century, when its use as a given name in Wales was inspired by the popularity of Sean in the rest of Britain.

Sioux y c~ The standard spelling of the name of the Native American tribe is used, by and large, as a variant of SUE. When employed for boys, however, there can be no doubting that the tribe is in mind. It is thought to have evolved from Fr: Nadouessioux, from Ottawa-dialect Ojibwe: natowessiwak, "North Iroquoian." Late 19th C.

Sirara Y An obscure Mesopotamian Goddess, who presides over the Persian Gulf The etymology is very cloudy, but it may be related to SIRIS.

Siren Y In Greek and Roman mythology, a siren was a creature with the body of a large bird and face of a woman. Later, they were described and depicted as women with wings. Luring sailors to their deaths through their enchanted, mesmeric singing, they famously feature in Homer's Odyssey. Odysseus blocked his men's ears, but had himself tied to the mast of his ship with ears clear, so that he could experience their song. The etymology of the name isn't entirely clear; it may be connected with Gr: seirao "to bind"-perhaps hinting at the Sirens attempts to entrap sail

ors with their singing-or the identical but unrelated seirao "to scorch." 20th C.

Sirena Y Spanish: sirena "mermaid" < SIREN.1he diminutive Sirenita-"little mermaid"-is sometimes used as a given name in the Spanish-speaking world.

Siris Y A Mesopotamian Goddess of beer. Her name is connected with Akkadian: sirasu "brewer."

Sirius G~ The brightest star in the sky. Bearing the scientific name Alpha Canis Majoris, Sirius is also known as the Dog Star because of its place in the constellation Canis Majorone of the hunting dogs of Orion. Gr: seirios "the scorcher" < seirao "to be hot" and "to scorch." It acquired the name because it first rises at the hottest time of the year. 19th C. Bearers: Sirius Black, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Sirocco (' Y The name of an intensely hot wind which blows across Southern Europe from North Africa. It is used figuratively to mean "fiery storm," and derives from Ar: sharq "east." Late 20th C.

Sirona Y A Celtic Goddess whose worship is attested across Europe. Her name occurs in numerous spelling variations, including Sarona, Serona, and Serana, and almost certainly derives from CC: *sterf "star." She is a Goddess of healing, and is frequently depicted with a snake, the classic symbol of rejuvenation and rebirth. Late 20th C.

Sisi Y A pet-name, principally of ELIZABETH. It was famously borne by Elizabeth of Bavaria (1837-98), who became Empress of Austria on her marriage to Francis Joseph I. Used independently in the ESW from the twentieth century. Var: Sissi.

Sisuei y J Mi'kmaq: sisuei "fiery blaze."

Sita Y Indian name. Sanskrit: sita "furrow." It features prominently in the Ramayana as the wife of Rama. As Rama is believed to be an incarnation of Vishnu, Sita is considered to be an incarnation of Lakshmi.

Sithchean c~ A Druid in Irish mythology. 01: sithich "fairy" + dim. suffix -dn.

Sithney A Cornish saint. The etymology is very obscure. It may, just possibly, be a very corrupt form of SATURN. Var: Sezni.

Sito Y Epithet of Demeter. Gr: sitos "grain" and "wheat." 20th C.

Sitra 2 The name of an Egyptian queen consort of the thirteenth century BCE. Egyptian: sAt "daughter (of)" + RA.

Siwald c~ Medieval form of Old English Sigeweald-sige "victory" + weald "power." It is the origin of the surname Sewell, but didn't survive the Middle Ages. A very similar name is Seawald, where the first element is sce "sea."

Siward a' Old English: Sigeweard-sige "victory" + weard "protection." It didn't survive the Middle Ages, but was revived in the nineteenth century.

Sjofna Y A Norse Goddess of love. The etymology isn't entirely clear, but it is most likely from ON: sjafni "love." Var: Sjofn.

Skaiste Y Lithuanian name-skaistus "bright," "chaste," "pure," "white," and "virginal."

Skerne 5 A river in County Durham, England. OE: scir "clear" and "bright" + ea "river."

Sky Y e The land, sea, and sky are the three realms of Druidry, and one of the concepts represented in the triple-spiral symbol called a triskele. The sky is the sphere of the spiritual and the imagination; it is a place of freedom, where dreams are allowed to form, flourish, and fly unfettered like birds. The sky is the home of the sun, moon, and stars. It is primeval and primordial-we can gaze billions of years into the past and glean the future. Across the world, humans of all cultures have sensed the divinity innate in the sky. The word "sky" itself derives from ON: sky "cloud"-a word related to SHADE. 19th C.

Skye ? e Often treated as a variant spelling of SKY, Skye is sometimes bestowed with reference to the Scottish Island, which features in the famous ballad "The Skye Boat Song," first recorded in the nineteenth century. The etymology of the island's name is very obscure. It may be ON: sky "cloud" + ey "island."

Skylark 2 SKY + LARK, the usual full name for the bird poetically referred to as a lark. Late 20th C.

Skyler c~ 2 A phonetic English spelling of the Dutch surname Schuyler "scholar." It is found in use as a surname in

the ESW from the nineteenth century, and saw its first use as a given name in the same period. An early example in Britain is a child called Arent Skyler de P Bettam, registered in 1869, who is clearly named after the American-born British soldier and writer Arent Schuyler DePeyster (1736-1822). In the twentieth century, the name was increasingly used for girls. Var: Skylar-no doubt influenced by SKYLARK.

Slaine The legendary first king of Ireland. 01• sldn "healthy" and "whole"; the word is familiar today in the Irish expression sldinte-"cheers!"

Slate c~ 2 An extremely hard stone with the useful quality of splitting easily into thin, flat slices. As such, it is much used as a material for roof-tiles-also called slates. OF: esclate, "splinter," and "sliver." Slate is a no-nonsense, practical stone, known for its durability. The surname Slate arose metonymically for a "slater," i.e. someone who makes slates or lays them. 19th C.

Sleet e Y The word "sleet" has been used in English as the name of partially thawed falling snow since at least the fourteenth century, though its origins aren't all that clear. It is probably related in some way to Middle High German: sldze "hail." 19th C.

Slobodan cc A name used throughout the former Yugoslavia. Serbo-Croatian: slobbda "freedom." Bearers: Slobodan Milosevic (1941-2006), the President of Yugoslavia, accused of war crimes during the Yugoslav Wars in the 1990s.

Smertrios c~ A Gaulish God. The Romans identified him with Mars, and he is often considered a God of war, but evidence suggests he is also a God of fertility and abundance. His name may derive from CC: *smert-, like Rosmerta, giving it the meaning of "the provider." Alternatively, it combines *smeru- "marrow"-thus "fat" and "abundant"-with *tr-s "three"- i.e. "thrice abundant." Var: Smertrius.

Snaedis Y Icelandic-snae- "snow" (which is found in Old Norse compounds such as snaehvitr "snow-white" and snaefugl "snow-bunting") + dis "Goddess."

Snake a' 2 The English "snake" derives from OE: snaca, with an Old Norse cognate sndkr. The etymology beyond this is shaky. The snake is a deeply symbolic creature, which features prominently in the mythology of many cultures. In South America, it is one of the three totem animals of the Inca cross (see Chakana), symbolizing the Underworld (through its habitat). Similarly, to the Celts, the snake was closely linked to the Earth and the Underworld, and to the cycle of death and regeneration (through its habit of shedding its skin), symbolizing the presence of the Divine in the physical world. Snakes have also been much linked to healing, again, largely because of their perceived ability to rejuvenate themselves. Even today, the symbol for the medical profession is the staff of the Greek God Asclepius, around which snakes entwine. Snakes are also associated with fertility, partly perhaps because of their phallic shape, and partly because most snakes lay eggs, which are potent symbols themselves of fertility. They are also associated with prophecy, knowledge, and cunning; before Delphi became the seat of Apollo's oracle, the God slew Pytho-a great python-there. This belief may have arisen because snakes are generally secretive creatures that keep to themselves. Of course, the most famous snake is the talking one in the Garden of Eden. For telling Eve the truth about the tree- i.e. that she wouldn't die if she ate it, which she didn't-the snake was cursed, and has ever since been associated with the JudeoChristian notion of "the Devil," and deception, even though the snake didn't actually do any deceiving. Everything it said to Eve was true. This link, however, meant that the Snake also became symbolic of Paganism and the Church's attempt to wipe it out. More than one Christian saint is said to have got rid of snakes in their hagiographies; most notably Patrick in Ireland (there never were

any actual snakes in Ireland-and for all his efforts, the Pagans are still there!). Snake does exist as a rare surname, but because of how the poor snake has been maligned, it has been barely used as a given name at all. There are a couple of examples of it in middle-name use from the late nineteenth century, including one Ratel Snake Jack, whose birth was recorded in Indiana in 1903."The name given for his father was simply Rattlesnake.

Sneiana Y Serbo-Croatian-snezan "snowy." A name used in Russia as well as throughout the former Yugoslavia. Var: Snjeiana, Snezhana.

Snotra 2 The Norse Goddess of wisdom. ON: snotr "wise" < snotra "to make wise."

Snow c~ Y The Oxford English Dictionary defines snow rather beautifully as "the partially frozen vapor of the atmosphere falling in flakes characterized by their whiteness and lightness." "The beauty and magic of snow has captured the imagination of mankind for millennia, and it frequently features in myths. In Scottish folk-tradition, snow is the linen of the Cailleach, lain out to dry. In Germanic, it is the feathers from Fran Holda's mattress flying free as she shakes it.

Snow is the ultimate symbol of winter and the Winter Solstice, its whiteness also symbolic of purity, hope, and rebirth; beneath its thick blanket, the Earth sleeps, and new life begins to stir as the days gradually start to lengthen once the Solstice is past. The surname Snow arose as a nickname in medieval times for someone with snow-white hair. 18th C. Var: Snow White-taken from the fairy-tale, which was first recorded by the Brothers Grimm in the nineteenth century.

Snowdon c~ The English name of yr Wyddfa, the famous Welsh mountain. OE: snaw "snow" + dun "hill"-an appropriate name, as its summit is often shrouded in snow when the rest of the land around is clear. It gives its name to the Snowdonia National Park.'The variant Snowden-the usual form of the surname, deriving from Snowdon in Devon or Snowden in Yorkshire (which probably share the same etymology as the mountain)-occurs from the seventeenth century, with Snowdon itself appearing in the eighteenth.

Snowdrop Y The delicate white snowdrop is one of the first flowers to bloom after the Winter Solstice, and is certainly the most symbolic. In modern Paganism, it has become the symbol of Imbolc and sacred to the Goddess Brigid. It is also symbolic of hope-though it is considered unlucky to pick it or bring into the house, perhaps because it is poisonous. 19th C.

Snowflake ? They say that no two snowflakes are ever the same; each is one of Nature's works of art.'The combination of SNOW and "flake" dates to the early eighteenth century, and is found as a given name since the late nineteenth century.

Socrates c? The name of the famous Greek philosopher, who lived in the fifth century BCE. As an old man, he was found guilty of "corrupting the young" and "introducing new Gods," and was executed in 399 BCE. Gr: sos "safe," "sound," and "certain" + kratos "power," "strength," and "might." 17th C.

Sohail e Arabic and Persian name for the star Canopus, of unknown etymology. Used as a boy's name in the Islamic world. Var: Soheil, Suhayl.

Sojourner Y "One who sojourns"-i.e. lives somewhere temporarily. It was sometimes used in English Parish records for strangers who had died in the Parish and whose names were unknown. From the eighteenth century, it began to be used as a given name, presumably with the sentiment that the bearer was only a sojourner on Earth.'The name may have become nothing more than a historical curio were it not for Sojourner Truth (c. 1797-1883), the American abolitionist and women's rights activist, whose real name was Isabella Baumfree. Var: Sojourney.

Sol ? a Sol in the ESW has tended to be a short form of SOLOMON and a male name, but in the Spanish-/Portuguese-speaking worlds, Sol is usually female and has been in use since the Middle Ages. Sp: sal "sun" < L: so/ "sun." Sol is a Roman God, who was particularly popular in the Roman Empire, where he was worshipped as Sol Invictus-the "Unconquered Sun." His festival on December 25-when the lengthening days after the Solstice first begin to be detectable-was one of the most popular of the latter Roman Empire. So popular, indeed, that the Christian Church decided to appropriate it for "Christ's Mass" in the fourth century.

Sol Y The Norse Goddess of the sun, and equivalent of Surma. ON: so/ "sun."

Solace y c~ Meaning "comfort" and "consolation," the English "solace" comes from L: solacium "solace." Early 20th C.

Solamena' ? Latin: solamen "comfort," "relief," and "solace." 19th C.

Solange Y A French name. It was borne by a ninth-century saint, said to have been a shepherdess. Her tale bears much in common with many Celtic saints; she spurned a would-be suitor, he lopped off her head, she picked up said head, and took it a nearby church. The name is Latinized as Sollemnia, and usually derived from L: sollemnis. This had the basic meaning of "annual," but came to be used of religious festivals celebrated annually, and thus "appointed" and "established." The religious element led to it also taking on meanings of "festive," "religious," and "solemn." Given her distinctly Celtic Pagan flavor, however, it may well be that her name is Celtic in origin and she is a relic of a Goddess it is tempting to compare her name to SULIS. Used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century.

Solanus c' The Latin name of the east wind, from L: sol "sun." 20th C.

Solar c~ Y Latin: SOLARIS. "Solar" is an English noun and adjective, the basic meaning of which is "of the sun." It is used in all kinds of contexts, from astrological to scientific, from the sublime to the mundane. The solar cross, for instance, is the name given to the ancient cross symbol found across the world long before Christianity, which is believed to symbolize the Solstices and Equinoxes. Late 19th C. An early example is that of one Ethel Solar C Art, whose birth was registered in Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales, in 1880.

Solari ? e Solari is mostly an Italian surname, deriving from It: solare "sunny" < L: SOLARIS. Occurrences as a given name in the nineteenth century seem to represent simply an adoption of the surname. Bearers: Solari, a character in the American-New Zealand television series Xena: Warrior Princess (1995-2001).

Solaris ci 2 Latin: solaris "of the sun" or "belonging to the sun." 20th C.

Solas c y Irish Gaelic: sofas "light," "flame," and "beacon"; sofas na gealai means "moonlight." It is also an Old French form of SOLACE.

Soleil y c?' French: soleil "sun." Used as a name in the ESW since the 1920s.

Solifer c?' Y Latin: solifer "sun-bringing"-used to denote the East. Fem: Solifera.

Soligena ? c~ Latin: soligena "child of the sun." Used as an epithet of Aeetes, King of Colchis (the father of Medea), by the first-century CE Roman poet Valerius Flaccus.

Solinus c?' Roman cognomen of uncertain origin, though most likely derived from SOL. Borne by the late Latin grammarian and writer Gains Julius Solinus.

Solomon c' The original Hebrew form of Solomon is Sholomoh (also transliterated as Shelomoh), and is probably derived from a Hebrew verb meaning "to be complete" and "to be sound." The well-known Hebrew shalom "peace" also derives from this source, and it is cognate with the Akkadian sulmu, from which Shulman also derives. A more intriguing option regarding the history of Solomon is that the name is simply the Hebrew form of SHULMAN itself-and that his whole story arose from a desire to incorporate this important God into the Hebrew mythos. Solomon is the famous builder of the temple in Jerusalem, renowned for his great wisdom, his encounter with the exotic Queen of Sheba, and his leanings towards polytheism-particularly the worship of Ashtoreth. In the Middle Ages, a number of legends sprang up around him, crediting him with knowledge and expertise in ceremonial magic, and he was said to be the author of the fourteenth-/ fifteenth-century grimoire The Key of Solomon. 13th C. Dim: SOL, Solly. Ar: Suleiman, Turk: Suleyman, Suleiman.

Solstice e Y Latin: solstitium < SOL: + stito "to stand still." It is a word used to refer to the two periods each year when the sun appears to rise and set in the same place for a few days, and the days no longer appear to lengthen or shorten. There is strong evidence that people have considered these periods sacred for thousands of years. In Paganism, the Solstices

feature prominently as two of the eight festivals of the Wheel of the Year, and are known by a number of names depending upon tradition. "Yule" is a particularly popular choice for the Winter Solstice. Some Druids call it Alban Arthan, while another Old English name is Midwinter. The Summer Solstice is often called Litha or Midsummer; it is known to Druids as Alban Hefin. 20th C. Dim: SOL. Solstice "Sol" is the name of the "Magus" of Stonewylde in Kit Berry's Stonewylde series (2005-).

Somerilda Y Latinized form of Old Norse Sumarhild- sumar "summer" + hildr "battle." Var: Somerhild, Somerild.

Somerled cc Old Norse: Sumarliki-sumar "summer" + lior "to pass by," hence "summer passer-by" or "summer wayfarer," i.e. a Viking. The name survived in Scotland, mostly in the Gaelic form Somhairle, which in turn was Anglicized as Sorley. Bearers: Sorley Maclean (1911-96)-also known as Somhairle MacGill-Eain-the Scottish poet.

Somerset g Y An English county, and a surname derived from it. OE: sumor "summer" + scete "dwellers" and "settlers," though in the case of Somerset itself, the Somer- is short for Somerton, the old town responsible for the county's name. The Somerset family are Dukes of Beaufort. 17th C. Bearers: W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965), the British writer.

Somme Y ' A French river, famous for being the site of one of the most horrific battles of the First World War in 1916. It was first used as a given name in the immediate aftermath of the battle. Its name derives from its name in Roman times-SAMARA.

Song c~ Y Humans have probably been singing songs for as long as we have been vocal; some of the earliest pieces of surviving poetry were composed to be sung as well as recited, and references to songs and singing are embedded deep in our literature and even our language. We are not the only species that sings, however. Most of us are exposed regularly to birdsong, but whales and dolphins are also known for

their singing. As a given name, Song occurs from the nineteenth century. It is also a Chinese name. Mand: song "pine."

Sonia Y Russian pet-form of SOPHIA, used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. Var: Sonya, Sonja. Bearers: Queen Sonja of Norway (b. 1937), the present Queen Consort of Norway.

Sonnet y The name of a type of poem, which first became fashionable in England in the sixteenth century. Shakespeare's sonnets are particularly celebrated, but the structure remained popular into the early twentieth century, and other notable sonnet writers include Wordsworth and Keats. It: sonetto "little sound" < suono "sound." 20th C.

Sonny c-' Sonny's use in the ESW is generally as a nickname or familiar term of address, deriving from the word "son" and used by a mature man to a younger man or boy. It first appeared in the nineteenth century, and is first found as a genuine name before the end of that century. Its profile as a given name was significantly raised in 1965 by the singer Salvatore "Sonny" Bono (1935-98) of Sonny and Cher fame. It also featured in The Godfather (1972) as a short-form of the Italian name Santino, itself a diminutive of Santo < L: sanctus "saint" (see Sanchia).

Sopha 2 Thai name-sopha "beautiful"; "radiance," "light," and "beauty."

Sophia, Sophie Y Greek: sophia "wisdom"; Sophia was personified as a Goddess by the Greeks. Under the name of Pistis Sophia, she is also revered as a Goddess by the Gnostics, and considered a feminine aspect of the Judeo-Christian God by Kabbalists. Sophy and Sophie arose as simpler forms in the seventeenth century. The traditional English pronunciation is "sa-Fl-a," but nowadays is more often than not pronounced "s3-FEE-o." 16th C. It, Port, Rom, Ru, Scand: Sofia, Sp: Sofia, Dut, Ger, Scand: Sofie, Dut, Fr, Ger: Sophie, Est, Fin: Sohvi, Pol: Zofia, Zosia (dim), Slovak: Zofia, Cz: Zofie, Hun: Zsofia, Zsofika (dim). Bearers: Sophie Hatter, a character in Diana Wynne Jones's Howl's Moving Castle (1986); Sophie Amundsen, the eponymous heroine of Jostein Gardner's Sophie's World (1991).

Sophocles c? One of the three great playwrights of fifth century BCE Athens. Sophocles (c. 497/6-407/6 BCE) is famous for such works as Oedipus Rex (429 BCE) and Electra (c. 409-406 BCE). Gr: sophos "wise" + kleos "glory." 18th C.

Sophonisba 2 A daughter of the Carthaginian general Hasdrubal, and queen of Syphax, King of Numidia. Syphax was defeated by another Numidian prince, Masinissa, who fell in love with Sophonisba. His allies, the Romans, demanded she be sent to Rome in captivity. To save her from this fate, he sent her poison, which she drank. Her story was a favorite of writers and composers from the sixteenth century onwards, with versions produced by people such as Jean Mairet (1634), Pierre Corneille (1663), and James Thomson (1730). Her name is a much reworked Latinized form of the Carthaginian name Saphanba'al. The etymology isn't entirely clear; the first element may be related to Heb: sapan "to hide" or "treasure," which would give it the meaning "treasured by BAAL." Alternatively, it may be closer in meaning to Akkadian: sapanu "to flatten" and "to overthrow," i.e. "Baal overthrows (his enemies)." 17th C.

Sophronia y Greek: s6pbr&n "sagacious," "prudent," and "of sound mind." First used by Boccaccio in the Decameron, it also featured in Torquato Tasso's Jerusalem Delivered (1581). 16th C.

Sophrosyne y Greek: sophrosune "soundness of mind," "discretion," and "prudence." Sophrosyne was personified by the Greeks as the Goddess of moderation and self-control.

Sora Y Japanese name-sora "sky," "summer sky," or "blue sky."

Soraya Y Persian name of the Pleiades, deriving from their Arabic name Thuraya. Ar: thuriyyah "rich" and thuriyya "wealthy." Var: Suraya, Surayya, Thurayya.

Sorcery Y e Old French: Sorcerie < Late L: Sorceria "sorcery" < sors "lot," "share," and thus "destiny," "fate," and "fortune"-it also came to mean an "oracular response" and "prophecy."

Sorcha Y Old Irish: sorchá "light," "bright," "clear," and "conspicuous." Revived 20th C.

Sorgin ? e Basque: sorgin "Witch"-male or female. Originally, sorgins were believed to have been priests and priestesses of the Basque Goddess Mari.

Sorin c~ Romanian name, usually derived from Rom: snare "sun." Fem: Sorina.

Sorrel Y a' Sorrel is a name applied to more than one herb; common sorrel and wood sorrel are the most impor

tant. Common sorrel (usually simply "sorrel") is ruled by Venus. It was used in folk-medicine in the past for a number of complaints, from cooling inflammations to killing worms, but has generally been used as a simple salad herb. Wood sorrel is quite a different plant, but has a similar taste and is also ruled by Venus. It was used to treat ulcers and strengthen a weak stomach, among other things. Magically, wood sorrel is still used as a charm for the heart against disease, and is credited with aiding recovery when placed in a sickroom. OF: surele < Ger: sur "sour." The surname arose as a diminutive of OF: sor "brown." 18th C. Var: Sorrell.

Sospita y Epithet of Juno. L: sospes "saving," "delivering," and "savior"-also "safe and sound happy," and "fortunate." 20th C.

Soteira 2 Greek: soteira "savior." An epithet used of a number of protective Goddesses, including Artemis, Athena, Demeter, Hecate, and Kore. 20th C.

Soter c? Greek: soter "savior." Principally an epithet of Zeus, it is also used of Apollo, Hermes, and Asclepius. 19th C.

Soteria 2 Greek: soteria "safety," "deliverance," and "preservation." 20th C.

Soul Y c? The concept of a soul is one which is deeply embedded in most world cultures, and at the heart of most religious experience. Exactly what a soul is-and who possesses one-is not something, however, on which there is much agreement. Some are quite adamant that only humans have souls (sometimes even only men), others that even pebbles possess them.

Generally, the soul is regarded as a person's "essence," the part of them which is eternal and immortal. The English word has cognates across the Germanic languages, but its ultimate origin is uncertain. The Gothic word was *saiwala*, and an interesting theory is that the word derives from ProtoGermanic: **saiwi-z* "sea." This would give it a literal meaning of "belonging to the sea" or "from the sea," perhaps indicating a belief that

souls came from and returned to the sea. The surname derives from OE: sol "mud" and "watering place for animals," or from OF: sol "lonely." 19th C.

South C? Y The South is the direction associated with the element of Fire and the season of summer. The word is of Germanic origin, and spread through the Franks and the Visigoths into French and Spanish too. The surname, just like the other surnames of the directions, is simply an adoption of the word, which was used of someone who had come from the south-not necessarily very far to the south. It could have been just south of a village. 17th C.

Souvenir y a French: souvenir "memory" and "keepsake" < L: subvenire "to come into the mind." 19th C.

Sovann c~ ? Khmer name-sovan "gold.-Me girls' names Sovannary and Sovandara combine sovan with nierii "girl" and "unmarried woman," and daaraa "star."

Spark cf Y The word "spark" comes from OE: spearca. Its meaning has always been a "small particle of fire," specifically one which is shot from a fire or created by striking two hard objects together. The surname is from a separate source ON: sparkr "lively" and "sprightly." 17th C. Var: Sparke.

Sparkle Y The original meaning of "sparkle" in the fourteenth century was "a small spark." Its principal modern meaning of "glittering light" dates to the late fifteenth century. In the past it was also used of small diamonds or rubies; another rare old use was to mean "vital or animating principle." 20th C.

Sparrow ? a The name of the cheerful and sociable little garden bird. OE: speorwa. The sparrow's strengths are in its tendency to do everything in a small flock, and the camouflage benefits of its simple brown coloring. However, in recent years, these haven't sufficed and it is now endangered in Britain. The surname derives from the bird. 17th C.

Sparrowhawk cf Y A type of hawk which, as its name suggests, has a particular fondness for sparrows. Indeed declining numbers of sparrows in Britain at the present time are attributed in part to the success in restoring

numbers of sparrowhawks, which had been in severe decline, especially in the 1950s. Spearhafoc, the Old English form, was used as a given name before the Norman Conquest. It gave rise to the surname. 19th C. Var: Sparhawk. Bearers: Sparrowhawk, the wizard Ged's "use name" in Ursula K. Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea* (1968).

Spella' 2 Old English: spell "discourse," "speech," "homily" "story," and "fable." From the sixteenth century, "spell" came to be used specifically of a spoken formula or verse with magical properties, synonymous with "incantation." Not long after, it came to mean the charm itself. There is a rare surname Spell, which probably arose as a metonym for a storyteller or preacher of some kind. 19th C.

Speller c' 2 English surname. OE: spell "discourse," "homily," or "story"; originally, therefore, a "speller" was a storyteller, or someone else known for talking, such as a preacher. 18th C.

Spellman cf English surname. OE: spell "discourse," "homily," or "story" + mann "man." Like Speller, it was probably originally used of a story-teller or preacher of some kind. 18th C.

Spencer a' Y English surname. OF: despencier "butler" or "steward." It is particularly noted for being borne by the aristocratic Spencer-Churchills, Dukes of Marlborough-to which Winston Churchill (1874-1965) belonged-and the Earls Spencer, the family of Diana, Princess of Wales (1961- 97). 16th C. Var: Spenser. Bearers: Spencer Compton, 1st Earl of Wilmington (1673-1743), and his great-great nephew Spencer Percival (1762-1812), both British Prime Ministers; Spencer Tracy (1900-67), the American actor.

Speranza y Italian: Speranza "hope." It was used as a penname by the Irish writer Jane Wilde (1821-96)-the mother of Oscar. Late 19th C.

Sphinx ? c~ In the minds of most people today, the Sphinx is most associated with the famous Ancient Egyptian monument, which sits proudly in the desert sands beside the pyramids of Giza. But the sphinx-a mythological beastie-played an important role in Greek mythology too, most notably when it terrorized Thebes, teasing the unfortunate inhabitants with its notorious riddle. Gr: sphiggo "to bind tight." Late 19th C.

Spica ? The popular name of the blue giant star Alpha Virginis. Although the name is usually interpreted as meaning "ear of wheat" in Latin, the word spica does in fact mean simply "spike," "point," and "ear" of an unspecified grain. It was used in Roman times to refer to the head or tuft of almost any plant. However, it is likely wheat was the plant in mind, hinting that the constellation Virgo represents a grain Goddess.'This is one reason why she is often identified with Ceres. 20th C.

Spirit Y c? Some religions put forth the notion that "spirit" is something separate from the "soul," especially those which seek to give credence to their belief system by making it as woolly, complicated, and tortuous as possible in the hope this will convince people their religion must be true. The word "spirit" derives from L: spiritus "breath," "breeze," and "the air." In English "spirit" very much carries the sense of "essence of life," and, by extension, "disposition" and "frame of mind"-seen in expressions such as "spirited," "in good (or low) spirits," and a "free spirit." It has also come to mean "ghost," and is sometimes used of other supernatural beings-both benign and malignant. Many people today are keen to call themselves spiritual rather than religious, because they seek to enrich their souls, but avoid religious dogma. Used from the twentieth century, often in combinations such as Ocean Spirit, Tree Spirit, Sky Spirit, and Free Spirit.

Spring 2 d The name of the season when everything "springs" into life. Spring is the season of new life and fertility, and its zenith is the Vernal Equinox. Another meaning of "spring," however-and one with equal potency in Paganism-is that of the source or head of a stream or well. Springs have been regarded as sacred places since ancient times. In Greco-Roman tradition, they almost always had named nymphs attached to them, while amongst the Celts, they were usually linked with a Goddess, God, or genius loci, and very much associated with healing-rare hot springs particularly so, such as at Bath.'The surname derives from the same source as the season, and was probably first used of an active, lively, youthful individual. 18th C.

Sprite Y e A variant of "spirit"; originally, it carried all the same senses, but is now generally used only to mean "supernatural being," and is treated as a synonym of "elf" and "fairy."20th C.

Spruce e Mostly thought of today as the name of a type of fir tree, the word originally was another name for PRUSSIA, deriving from the old adjective "pruce," meaning "Prussian." The adjective "spruce" meaning "brisl" and "smart" comes from the same source. 19th C.

Sri 2 Indian name. Sanskrit: s`ri "light," "luster," and "wealth." A name of Lakshmi and Ganesh. It is also placed in front of names to show respect, making it the equivalent of "Mr.," "Mrs.," and "Ms." Var: Shri, Shree.

Stag c~ In terms of symbolism and association, the stag is pretty much synonymous with the hart, although the stag is often regarded as the king of the woods even more, a proud, lordly creature of potent energy and fierce independence, symbolic of the power of Nature and the wild. Specifically, the word "stag" is applied to a five-year-old male red deer. The stag is considered one of the five totem animals of the Celts-the five oldest of all animals-which feature in the Mabinogion. OE: stagga-also the source of the surname. 18th C. Var: Stagg.

Stan cc Mostly a short form of STANLEY, Stan is also used as a short form of any one of the names containing it, such as ATHELSTAN, DUNSTAN, and TRISTAN. Used

independently since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Stan Shunpike, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Stanislas c~ Latinized form of pan-Slavic Stanislav, used in France and the ESW. Stanislav is a very ancient name, and the etymology is disputed. While the second element is simple enough-the common Slavic slav "glory"-the first is a trickier. The most likely option seems to be the traditional one-stan "camp" or "government."The name is borne by two Catholic saints, and as a result is used in Catholic lands across Europe. Var: Stanislaus. Sp: Estanislao, Pol: Stanislaw.

Stanley e English surname, from one of the many places called Stanley in England. OE: stan "stone" + leah.The Stanleys were an aristocratic English family, associated with the Earldom of Derby. 17th C. Dim: STAN. Bearers: Stanley Kubrick (1928-99), the American-born film director; Stan

Laurel (1890-1965), the American comic actor-who was born Arthur Stanley Jefferson.

Star Y c~ The beauty and mystery of the stars have fascinated humankind for millennia, as testified by the discovery of astrolabes from the earliest civilizations. We know also that the roots of astrology lie in Ancient Mesopotamia at least four thousand years ago. Only in relatively recent times have we understood the true physical nature of stars, but in many ways, knowing the truth-particularly just how far away many stars actually are-serves only to add to their appeal; to comprehend on a starry night that we are gazing across time, sometimes hundreds of thousands of years into the past-and in the case of the Andromeda galaxy, millions-is a beautiful and humbling experience. Symbolically, stars represent hope.'They are also strongly associated with the Divine-the five-pointed star is one of the best-known symbols of modern Paganism, particularly Wicca. Even the word "star" is old, and can be traced comfortably to PIE: *h₂sKer from which both STELLA and SEREN also derive.'The surname Star derives from OE: Steorra "star," which was mostly used as a nickname, but was also a personal name. 18th C. Var: Starr.

Starhawk Y c~ STAR + HAWK. 20th C. Bearers: Starhawk (b. 1951), the prominent American Witch and author, best known for *The Spiral Dance* (1979).

Starletta Y A late nineteenth-century creation, possibly conceived as a blend of STAR and a name ending in -letta, such as Violetta (see Violet). Alternatively, it may just be an elaboration of Starlet, itself found as a given name from the late nineteenth century.

Starlight Y STAR + LIGHT.'The magic of starlight is a quality which has entranced poets across the ages. 19th C.

Starling c3' ? Old English: steer "starling" < L: sturnus "starling."''The starling is a common but attractive bird with a glossy, speckled black coat. 'Though not particularly large, they are noisy, fierce little creatures that tend to live in flocks. Because of their aggressive behavior towards other bird species, they are often associated with warriors. Starling is also a surname,

which originated mostly as a nickname, but was also used as a given name in medieval times. 17th C.

Starry 2 c~ By and large, Starry's use as a given name in the twentieth century has been the simple adoption of the English "starry." There is, however, a rare surname, deriving from ON: stari "starling," which was used as a nickname in medieval times. "Starry" is probably the source of the Romani girl's name Stari.

Steed cc English surname. OE: steda "stud-horse" and "stallion." "The word is popularly associated with the notion of knights and their "noble steeds," a pairing of words which goes back to at least the early nineteenth century (it occurs in a poem by Byron). More recent use may have been inspired by the character of John Steed in *The Avengers* (1961-69), who was invariably known as Steed. 17th C.

Steele The word "steel" comes from OE: style "steel" and ultimately from a root meaning "to be firm" and "to be rigid." It has been used since the Middle Ages for varieties of artificially produced iron, known for their hardness and durability. Steel has, therefore, also come to mean both "hard" and "obdurate," but also "reliable" and "trustworthy"; the expression "true as steel" dates to the early fourteenth century. The surname derives directly from it, and was probably similarly bestowed on someone who was either very hard or very reliable. 17th C. Bearers: Steel, a central character in the British science-fiction series *Sapphire and Steel* (1979-82). Var: Steele.

Stella ? Latin: stella "star." Stella was used by Sir Philip Sidney in his *Astrophel and Stella* (1591). *Stella Maris*, meaning "star of the sea," is now considered a title of the Virgin Mary, but it is likely that it was originally bestowed upon Isis. 17th C. Bearers: Stella Mayfair, a character in Anne Rice's *Mayfair Witches* series (1990-94).

Stellifer Y ci Latin: stellifer "bearing stars" < stella "star" + fero "to bear" and "to carry." Var: Stellifera Y.

Sten c~ Scandinavian name. ON: steinn "stone."

Stephanie Y A feminine form of STEPHEN, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. The French princess Stephanie de Beauharnais (1789-1860) was largely responsible for popularizing the name. Dim: Steph, Steff, Steffi, Stevie. Var: Stefanie, Stephenie. Sp: Estefania, It: Stefania, Ger: Stephanie, Stefanie, Fr: Stephanie. Bearers: Princess Stephanie of Monaco (b. 1965); Stefanie "Steffi" Graff (b. 1969), the German tennis player; Stephenie Meyer (b. 1973), the American novelist.

Stephen c~ English form of Greek Stephanos "crown," "wreath," "chaplet," and "garland." "The word was used in particular of a crown of victory or honor in games or war, or for general public services. It was borne by a popular early saint, who, by virtue of being regarded as the first Christian martyr, was awarded December 26 for his feast day. 12th C. Var: Steven, Stefan. Dim: Steve, Stevie. Sp: Esteban, Estevan, Port: Estevao, Cat: Esteve, Fr: Etienne, Basque: Eztebe, Hun: ISTVAN, Ger, Pol, Rom, Scand: Stefan, It: Stefano, W: Steffan, Ru: Stepan, Cz: Stepan, It Ga: Stiofan, Pol: Szczepan, Maori: Tipene. Bearers: King Stephen of England (c. 1096-1154); five King Stephens of Hungary; nine popes; Stephen Hawking (b. 1942), the British scientist; Stephen King (b. 1947), the American author; Stephen Fry (b. 1957), the British actor and writer; Stephen McNallen (b. 1948), the American Pagan writer.

Sterling c3' English surname. OE: sterling "starling." "Sterling" is also an old name for a silver penny, dating to the Norman Period. It is still used in the expression "sterling silver" to mean silver of a certain standard, containing at least 92.5 percent pure silver. 18th C. Var: STIRLING.

Stewart a British surname. OE: stiweard "steward." Although firmly associated with the famous Scottish clan, it isn't unique to Scotland. However, it is the fame of the Scottish house, for a time not just the royal family of Scotland but also of England and Ireland, which is mostly responsible for its use as a given name. 17th C. Var: Stuart. Dim: Stew, Stu. Fem: Stewartina (hist). Bearers: Stewart Farrar (1916- 2000), the British Alexandrian Wiccan author.

Sthenius c3' Greek: sthenos "strength" and "might." An epithet of Zeus.

Stirling e British surname. Partly a variant of STERLING, and partly from Stirling in Scotland. The etymology of this is pretty cloudy, but the most likely option is Sc Ga: stri "strife" + linne "pool," including "pool in a river." Attempts to fit the second element to a word meaning "rock" or "hill" all seem pretty forced, and it is perfectly possible there was such a "pool" in the winding River Forth in the days when the name evolved, and it was the ford-and later bridge-at Stirling that was responsible for the initial settlement (as well as the source of all the "strife" to control them). 18th C.

Stone Gc Y Old English: stan, "stone." Synonymous with "rock," Stone is also an English surname, originally attached to someone who lived by or near stones-quite possibly a standing stone or stone circles. 16th C.

Storax c~ 2 Latin: storax < Gr: sturax "storax"-source of the alternative form Styrax. Storax is the name of the aromatic gum-resin extracted in ancient times from the storax tree, but now usually from the liquid ambar. It is used in incense and perfumery, and is thus associated with purification. Some also call benzoin resin styrax. Magically, it is used for purification and protection.

Storm Y e Storm first appears as a male given name in the eighteenth century as an adoption of the surname Storm, from OE: storm "storm," denoting someone with a stormy disposition. Storms are one of those things people either love or hate-the raw energy of Nature at its most uncontrollable and unpredictable is something people either find intensely thrilling and inspiring or quite terrifying-and understandably so. Storms have killed millions over the centuries. Var: Stormy. Bearers: Storm Jameson (1891-1986), the British novelist, who may have encouraged its general use as a girl's name in the twentieth century-her birth name was actually Margaret Ethel, Storm being her father's middle name.

Story Y a The surname Story derives from the Old Norse boy's name Stori < storr "big." Recent use, however, is an adoption of the word "story." OF: estoire < L: historia < Gr: historia "history" < histor "wise man." 19th C.

Strawberry Y cc The word "strawberry"-a combination of "straw" + BERRY-dates to at least the eleventh century. Best known for their sweet juicy red fruits, so redolent of summer, the strawberry is a plant governed

by Venus and Water, and associated with love and good fortune. It is symbolic of perfect goodness. Now valued for its high vitamin C content and antioxidant properties, the strawberry has long been used in herbal medicine for a variety of complaints, and is regarded as particularly good for clearing up the skin. 19th C.

Stream c~ Y Old English stream "stream." The surname derives from the same source, originally denoting someone

who lived by a stream. 18th C. Stream shares all the same watery and natural connotations as Brook and River, etc.

Strenia 2 A Roman Goddess who presided over the gifts Romans gave to each other at the New Year, making some link her with Befana. In origin a Sabine Goddess, she was also known in ancient times as Strenua. The Romans regarded her as a Goddess of physical good health and resilience, but this may be because they believed her name derived from L: strenuus "brisk," "nimble," "strenuous," "active," and "vigorous" (as testified by the alternative form of her name). What the Sabine origin of her name actually was is unknown-along with her original function; but her gift-giving aspect may be a stronger clue than the later Latin meaning imposed upon her name.

Strider c? Meaning "one who strides," this was the nickname given to Aragorn in Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings by the ordinary folk of the North, on account of the long strides he took with his very long legs. It is the name by which he is known for the best part of the first volume-The Fellowship of the Ring, and which the hobbits continue to call him throughout the book Late 20th C.

Su Y In the ESW Su is generally considered a variant of SUE. However, Su is also used as a girl's name in Turkey, where it means "water." It also carries meaning in other languages; in Basque for instance, it means "fire." In French it means "knew," being a past tense of the verb savoir "to know." In Japanese, it means "vinegar." It has a number of meanings in Chinese, such as su "loquacious"; su "morning"; su "fast"; su "teal"-this last also being the name of an ominous mythical bird, the Su Shang.

Su'n c? Y Mi'kmaq: su'n "cranberry."

Sudi cc Y Swahili: sudi "success" and "good luck".

Sue Y Short form of SUSAN and SUSANNAH, used independently since the nineteenth century. In America, it is often combined with other names such as Peggy Sue, and Sue Ellen-the latter made famous by a character in the American soap opera Dallas (1978-91). Var: SU, Soo, SIOUX (mod).

Sufi c~ A term for a follower of Sufism, used as a name. Its origin is Ar: suJT "man of wool," probably a reference to the simple clothes early mystics tended to wear. Fem: Sufiya, Sufia. Suibhne e Traditional Irish Gaelic name from which SWEENEY derives. The etymology isn't entirely clear; it may be a combination of CC: prefix *su- "good" + ibhne "drinking," or be derived from 01: sube "joy," from which subhach "merry" evolved.

Sukey Y Sukey is a pet-form of SUSAN and SUSANNAH, used independently since the eighteenth century. It features in the nursery rhyme "Polly Put the Kettle On," which dates to the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century. Var: Sukie.

Sulgenius cc A legendary king of Britain, recorded in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* (c. 1136). It is a Latinized form of SULIEN.

Sulien c~ Old Welsh name, probably dating back to the Roman period. A feminine form, Sulicena occurs on a tombstone of Roman date. The second element is straightforward-CC: *geno- "born." The first may be CC: *sfwol- "sun," or be the theonym SULIS. Var: SULGENIUS, Sulian, Sulgen-the latter now the name of a river in Carmarthenshire.

Sulis Y An important Brythonic Goddess, worshipped at Bath in the Roman period as Sulis Minerva. She is also known as Sul. Her name is popularly derived from CC: *sfwol- "sun" and considered cognate with SOL. The Irish Gaelic word for "eye" is also derived from this word, so it is believed it may have carried connotations of sight, perhaps even the notion of "the eye of the sky." This derivation is, however, disputed, and some

prefer to derive it from CC *su- "good" + *liy-o- "flow," a more literal description of the sacred spring at Bath. She may be related to the Goddess Sulevia, whose worship is attested in both Gaul and Britain and whose name often appears in the plural. 20th C.

Sullivan c~ Anglicized form of the Irish Surname O Suileabhain < Suileabhan, a byname from suil "eye" + dubh "black" + dim. suffix -dn. 18th C.

Sulpicia Y Feminine of Sulpicius, a Roman gens, a name of unknown origin. There were two women poets of the name in the Roman period, one who lived at the time of the Emperor Augustus, the other during the reign of Domitian. Dim: Sulpicilla.

Sulwyn e Welsh: Sul "Sunday" + gwyn. It was inspired by Sulgwyn, the traditional Welsh name for Whitsun. Late 19th C. Fem: Sulwen.

Suman c~ 2 Twi: suman "charm," "amulet," or "talisman," though it can be used to denote any protecting power. Generally a suman is made of feathers, hair, animal teeth, and beads, perhaps also with scraps of leather or paper inscribed with mystical letters and symbols. Suman is also an Indian name, from San: sumana "beautiful" and "charming," or sumanas "benevolent," "well-disposed," and "agreeable."

Summer ? c~ The warmest, sunniest season of the year, when all is blooming, and crops are ripening. In former times, when life wasn't made so easy and comfortable by electricity, double glazing, central heating, fresh produce shipped across the globe, etc., its blessings were valued far more than today. Small wonder its praises were sung so highly by poets of the past. OE: sumor, cognate with W: haf and OI: sam. The origins of Summer as a surname are uncertain. It may be connected with the season, or be from OF: somier "sumpter"-an archaic term for the driver of a pack-horse. 18th C. Since the twentieth century, it has been increasingly used as a girl's name.

Sun Y Old English: sunne < Proto-Germanic: *sunnon-. Source of heat and light, it is unsurprising that the potency and brilliance of the sun has been viewed as a God in most cultures. Regardless of religious belief, it is a

plain fact that without the Sun, there would be no Earth as we know it, nor conditions conducive to the generation or sustenance of life. It is, perhaps, ironic that even Christian imagery often equates the sun and its light with its God. The surname Sun is from OE: sunu "son," thought to have been used to mean "younger" or "junior." 18th C. Sun is also a Chinese and Korean name. Mand: sun "grandson"; sun "fragrant grass"; sun "bamboo shoot." Korean: seon "goodness."

Sunakai 2 Romani: sunakai "gold." It is thought to derive from San: svarna "gold."

Sunbeam Y Meaning a ray of sunlight, the word "sunbeam" has been used for a thousand years. SUN + "beam" < OE: beam "tree" and "plank." Late 19th C.

Suncana y Croatian name-sunce "sun." Dim: Suncica.

Sunday e Y The names of the week were named after the heavenly bodies by the Romans, and Sunday is simply that the day of the sun. In the course of the last fifteen hundred years, when the West was dominated by Christianity, Sunday became the "day of rest" and generally has positive connotations (see Friday for more on days-of-the-week names), as well as being regarded as holy. This may account for why it has been used as a given name since at least the eighteenth century. In addition, Sunday's child definitely gets one of the best deals in the nursery rhyme "Monday's Child"-"The child born on the Sabbath day, is bonnie and blithe and good and gay." Bearers: Sunday Reed (1905-81), the Australian art collector. Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban named their daughter Sunday Rose in 2008.

Sunder a Indian name. San: sundara "beautiful," "handsome," and "lovely."

Sunflower Y SUN + FLOWER. One of the most cheerful sights of summer is a field of glowing sunflowers, their faces all turned to bask in the rays of the sun. The sunflower is indigenous to the Americas, and was taken elsewhere in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It doesn't seem to have been known to herbalists such as Culpeper, but is now highly regarded for its many uses, from culinary to magical. It has powers relating to

fertility and health, and it is said if you cut the head off a sunflower at sunset and make a wish, that the wish will come true before the sun sets again. Vincent van Gogh's painting Vase with Fifteen Sunflowers (1888)- better known as simply Sunflowers-is one of the most recognized and best-loved works of art in the world. 20th C.

Sunia Y Latinized form of Greek Sounia, an epithet of Athene, from Sounion, at the tip of the Attic peninsula. This is most famous for its temple of Poseidon, but Athene also had a sanctuary there. The etymology of Sounion is unknown. It may well be pre-Greek. There is an outside chance it is from PIE: *su(w)en- "sun," particularly given the temple's very sunny location.

Sunita y Indian name. San: sunita "well-mannered," as well as "prudence" or "wisdom." Var: Suniti.

Sunlight y SUN + LIGHT. Sunlight Soap was invented by Lord Leverhulme in the nineteenth century; he later named the model village he built to house his workers Port Sunlight. Late 19th C.

Sunna Y In Germanic mythology, Sunna is the Goddess of the Sun, the equivalent of the Norse Goddess Sol. OG: sunna "sun."

Sunny a' 2 The use of English "sunny" as a given name dates to the nineteenth century. Sunny is the heroine of the musical Sunny (1925), adapted twice as a film in 1930 and 1941, while Sunny Baudelaire is one of the principal characters in Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events

(1999-2006). Sunny is also used as a short form of names such as SUNITA.

Sunshine y SUN + SHINE. "Sunshine" has been used as a word since the thirteenth century, and as a term of endearment and a given name since the nineteenth. Other noteworthy compounds featuring "sun" include Sundew (the name of a little bog-land plant), Sunrise, Sunset, and Sunstead (an old word for "solstice").

Sunthorn e "Thai name-sunthon "handsome," "good," and "sweet."

Supreme Y c? Latin: supremus "highest," "most high." In English, "supreme" originally meant simply "highest," but over the course of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries it came to mean "greatest" and "best." 20th C.

Sura Y Aredvi Sura Anahita is the full name of the Zoroastrian Goddess often called simply Anahita (see Anaitis). Avestan: sura "mighty."

Surf 2 c5 Surf's use prior to 2006 was largely confined to the Jewish community, as Suri is a Yiddish pet-form of SARAH. It is also used as a girl's and boy's name in India, with suri meaning "thinker" in Sanskrit. Suri also has meanings in a number of other languages, such as "queen" in Malay (suri rumah means "housewife" and ibu suri "queen mother"), "red" and "rosy" in Persian, "soured" in French, and "horse mackerel" in Italian. Suri was brought to the attention of the ESW when Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes gave the name to their daughter in 2006.

Surya e Y Sanskrit: surya "sun." The Hindu God of the sun-also known as Mitra. Var: Sorya.

Susan y The English form of SUSANNAH, which arose as a shorter form of Susannah in the sixteenth century. Var: Shusan; Suzan (mod). Dim: SUE, SUSIE, SUKEY. Bearers: Susan Brownell Anthony (1820-1906), the American feminist, whose name is commemorated in the Susan B. Anthony Coven Number 1, founded by Zsuzsanna Budapest; Susan Hayward (1917-75) and Susan Sarandon (b. 1946), American actresses; Susan Pevensie, a principal character in C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia; Susan Bones, a Witch in the Harry Potter series.

Susannah y Biblical name, traditionally said to mean "lily." Shoshannah is the Hebrew form, which actually derives ultimately from Egyptian: ssn "lotus." It passed into Akkadian as susanu "lily" and "lotus," and Persian as Sousan "lily." 13th C-though it wasn't until the sixteenth that it became common. Var: Susanna. W: Siwan, Port, Sp: Susana, It, Fin: Susanna, Dan, Fin, Ger, Scand: Susanne, Dut, Fr: Suzanne, Hun: Zsuzsanna; Zsuzsa, Zsuzsi (dim), Cz: Zuzana, Pol: Zuzanna. Bearers: Susanna Edwards, one of the Bideford Witches, who were the last to be executed for Witchcraft in England in 1682; Susannah Martin (1621-92), one of the victims of the

Salem Witch Trials; Zsuzsanna Budapest-or simply Z. Budapest-the pen name of Hungarianborn Dianic Wiccan writer and feminist Zsuzsanna Emese Mokcsay (b. 1940); Susannah Dean, a major character in Stephen King's The Dark Tower series (1982-).

Susie y Pet-form of SUSAN and SUSANNAH, used independently since at least the nineteenth century. Var: Susey, Susy; Susi, Suzi, Suzie, Suzy, Siouxsie (mod). Ger: Susi. Bearers: Susan "Suzi" Quarto (b. 1950), the American singersongwriter; Siouxsie Sioux (b. 1957)-born Susan Ballion-the English singer-songwriter of Siouxsie and the Banshees.

Suwan Y 'Thai name-suwan "gold."

Suzume Y Japanese name-suzume "sparrow."

Sven c~ Modern form of Old Norse Sveinn "boy," "servant," or "attendant," from which the obsolete English "swain" also derives.'The name was brought to Britain by the Vikings, and survived the Norman Conquest for a while in forms such as Suain, Swein, Sweyn, Swain, Swayne, and SWAN.

Svetlana 2 Russian name-svet "light." Coined as the Russian form of PHOTINE in the early nineteenth century by the poet Alexander Vostokov. Used in a number of Slavic countries, including the Czech Republic, Serbia, and the Ukraine. Dim: LANA, Svetka.

Swallow Y e Along with the cuckoo, the swallow is a bird considered the traditional herald of early summer, an attribute that dates to at least the days of Ancient Greece.'The bird is closely associated with the greater celandine; the reason said to be because the celandine flowers only when swallows are present.'The swallow is known for its graceful, swift flight; flying high is said to predict good weather; low, bad. Swallows also have magical associations; folklore tells of the "swallow stone"a small stone found in swallow nests-which cures blindness. Swallows themselves were also used in folk-remedies in the past; a crushed swallow was made into a broth to cure epilepsy and stammering-although it was regarded as bad luck to actually kill them.'The surname Swallow arose as a nickname. 18th C. Most use as a given name has been by the Romani.

Swan 2 d Swans are paradoxical birds; hauntingly beautiful, but best appreciated from a safe distance-as they can be as aggressive as a herd of enraged hippopotami. Known for mating with the same partner for life, they have become symbols of love and fidelity. Their transformation from unprepossessing grey cygnets into elegant and graceful adult swans can also be viewed as symbolic of the quest for personal transformation and realization of inner potential. Swans feature more than once in Irish myth; the children of Lir are transformed into swans for nine hundred years, while every other year at Samhain, the maiden Caer also transforms into a swan. This hints at the Celtic associations of the swan with the Otherworld, and their belief that it was a creature which could pass between the worlds. Folk-tradition tells that a swan sings its most sublime melody just before it dies-the origin of the expression "swan song." The surname Swan has a number of origins; in part it is OE: swan "swan," but it is also swan "herdsman" and even SVEN, of which Swan was the usual Anglicized form at the time of the Norman Conquest. 18th C. Var: Swann.

Swanilda Y Latin form of Old Norse Svanhildr-svanr "swan" + hildr "battle." Bearers: Swanilda, a character in Leo Delibes's ballet Coppelia (1870).

Sweeney cf Y Anglicized form of the Irish surname Mac Suibhne "son of SUIBHNE." 19th C. Bearers: Sweeney Todd, the fictional barber, who made his first appearance in *The String of Pearls: A Romance* (1846-47), an anonymous Victorian "penny dreadful."

Sweet 2 e The English surname Sweet derives from the Old English personal names Sweta e and Swete Y meaning "sweet," as well as from OE: swete "sweet" used as a nickname. It is the surname which is largely responsible for Sweet's first appearance as a given name in the seventeenth century, however, there are signs that even at this date the adjective was the source of inspiration, with more than one example of a girl with the surname Rose or Hart being called Sweet. In the nineteenth century, the name was sometimes combined, such as Sweet William Collyer, registered in 1844, and Sweet Patience Bedford, in 1890.

Sweetpea Y Sweetpea-a combination of SWEET + "pea"-is the common name of the plant *Lathyrus odoratus*. Known for its attractive flowers and

strong scent, it is a favorite of cottage gardens. Sweetpeas are symbolic of departure and farewells, traditionally bestowed on a host with the meaning "thank you for a lovely time." 20th C. Bearers: Sweetpea, a character in George Gershwin's one-act opera *Blue Monday* (1922).

Swift c~ Y Swift's use as a given name-which dates from the seventeenth century-can be regarded as having three distinct sources.'The first-responsible for its early use as a name-is the adoption of the surname, from OE: swift "rapid" and "fleet." It was used as a given name in the Middle Ages, as well as a nickname.'The second is a direct adoption of the adjective in modern times.'The third is an adoption of the name of the bird, which spends most of its life on the wing, darting about catching insects. In the past it was believed the birds didn't even possess feet. Its origin is the same as the others, earned because of its rapid and relentless flight.

Swithun cc Old English name-swi6 "strong." Borne by a ninth-century English saint associated with Winchester, England.'There is a traditional rhyme about his feast day, July 15: "St. Swithun's day if thou dost rain/For forty days it will remain./St. Swithun's day if thou be fair/For forty days'twill rain no more." Revived 19th C.

Sybil 2 Usual English form of Latin Sibylla < Gr: sibylla "sibyl"-i.e. a woman who utters prophesies inspired by a God. Oddly enough, the sibylline books were incorporated into early Church thinking and accepted as one (legitimate) source of divine revelation. As a result, by the Middle Ages, Sibylla had been adopted as a given name, and quickly took on a number of vernacular forms including Sybil and Sibyl. Sibley was particularly prevalent in the medieval period. Var: Sibilie, Sybyly, Sybell, Sibell, Sybilla, Sibilla, Sibella (hist); Cybil. Fr, Ger: Sibylle, Sybille, Devon and Cornish: Zibella. Benjamin Disraeli's novel *Sybil* (1845) may have influenced its return to favor in the nineteenth century. Bearers: Sibylle von Olfers (1881-1916), the German writer and illustrator, known for her Nature-orientated children's books such as *The Story of the Root Children* (1906); Sybil Leek (1917-82), the British Witch and author; Sybil Stamfordis, a medium in Agatha Christie's *The Pale Horse* (1961); Sybil Trelawney, a Witch and seer in the *Harry Potter* series.

Sylph Y A word first used by Paracelsus for a type of spirit which inhabits the air. The etymology is uncertain; it may have been coined by Paracelsus as a blend of L: sylvestris "belonging to a wood" + NYMPH. Late 19th C. Var: Sylphe (Fr).

Sylvester c~ Sylvester is the usual spelling of Silvester in the ESW. In Latin, silvester is a variant of sylvestris, meaning "belonging to a wood," "growing wild," and "sylvan." A saint and some early popes are responsible for the name's use from the Middle Ages. Dim: Sly, VESTER. Bearers: Pope Silves

ter II (c. 946-1003), the astrologer, astronomer, and scientist, depicted in later medieval legend as a sorcerer.

Sylvia Y Usual modern spelling of Latin Silvia, feminine of Silvius, a name borne by a number of legendary kings of Alba Longa in Latium < L: silva "a wood." Rhea Silvia was the mother of Romulus and Remus by the God Mars. Her name may indicate that she was in reality a woodland deity or nymph, although in the myth, she is simply a mortal princess. The Italians began using Silvia during the Renaissance, and its first appearance in England in the sixteenth century was in literature-most famously in Shakespeare's Two Gentlemen of Verona. Fr: SYLVIE. Bearers: Sylvia Pankhurst (1882-1960), the British artist and suffragette; Sylvia Plath (1932-63) the American-born poet; Sylvia Pouncer, a Witch in John Masefield's The Midnight Folk (1927).

Sylvie Y French form of SYLVIA, used in the ESW since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Sylvie, the heroine in Kit Berry's Stonewylde series (2005-). Var: Silvie, Sivy, Sylvy.

Sympathy ? Late Latin: sympathia < Gr: sumpatheia "possessing fellow feeling." When the word was first used in English in the sixteenth century, its meaning was "affinity," thus it also meant "harmony," "concord," "agreement," and "correspondence." Only in the seventeenth century did it come to mean "compassion" and "commiseration." 19th C.

Symphony 2 Latin: symphonia "agreement of sounds," "concord," and "harmony" < Gr: sunphonia < sunphonos "harmonious." 20th C.

Syn Y A Goddess in Norse mythology. ON: syn "faculty of vision" or "sight"-although her name is often linked by modern commentators with ON: synjan "denial" or "refusal." She is a Goddess of vigilance, who protects those who have been falsely accused of crimes.

Syrinx Y Greek: surigx "shepherd's pipe" and "Pans pipe." The name of a nymph, turned into the water reed to escape the attentions of Pan.

Syrma 2 Traditional name of Iota Virginis. Gr: surma "trailed"-used specifically of a theatrical robe with a long train.

Szczgsny c~ Polish name-szcqs`cie "luck" and "fortune."

Szillard a Hungarian name-szildrd "constant," "firm," "robust," "solid," and "steady."

Tabitha y Biblical name. Aramaic: "gazelle." The name of a character in the New Testament. It was translated into Greek as Dorcas. 16th C. Var: Tabatha. Dim: Tab, Tabby. Bearers: Tabitha Twitchett, the mother cat in Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Samuel Whiskers* (1908); Tabitha, Samantha's daughter in the American sitcom *Bewitched* (1964-72); Tabitha Lenox, a principal character in the American drama series *Passions* (1999-2008).

Taboo Y c~ Tongan: tabu-a word used of something set apart for a special use, or restricted to use by a particular individual (usually a king, priest, or God), or prohibited to a particular group or class, such as women. Hence "inviolable," "sacred," and "forbidden." The word was first used in English in the eighteenth century in specific reference to the customs of the Tongan people, passing into general use in the course of the following century. 20th C.

Tacita y Feminine form of TACITUS; it is another name for the Roman nymph Lara after Jupiter had her tongue cut out because she talked too much.

Tacitus a' Latin: tacitus "silent," "quiet," and "still." It can also carry the sense of "secret," "kept secret," "done in silence" and "not spoken of" < taceo "to be silent" and "to keep secret."

It was used as a cognomen in Roman times. 19th C. Bearers: Cornelius Tacitus (c. 56-117 CE), the Roman historian.

Tacy 2 Tacy originated in the form Tace, which is the imperative form of the verb taceo "to be quiet"-hence the name means, quite literally, "Be quiet!" This was considered to be an appropriate female name by the Puritans. 16th C. Var: Tacie, Tacye, Tasie, Tasy, Tasye (hist).

Tadhg c~ Old Irish name-tadhg "poet." Anglicized as Teague and Thady, Tadhg is one of a small number of traditional Irish names which managed to survive in continual use from the medieval period until the present, though from the seventeenth century, it was frequently rendered by names such as Thaddeus, Theodosius, and Theophilus. Var: Tadg, Tadc. Bearers:

Tadhg Dall O hUiginn (1550-91), one of the last of the traditional bards of Ireland.

Tafari c? Ethiopian boy's name, deriving from an Amharic word meaning "dangerous" and "someone (or something) to be feared." Tafari Makonnen was the original name of the Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie (1892-1975). As a small child, he was known as Lij Tafari-/"child." This became ras "head"-often translated as "duke"-when he grew up. As Ras Tafari, he gave his name to the Rastafarian movement, which worships Haile Selassie as the second incarnation of Jesus Christ. Var: Teferi.

Taffeta 2 Old French: taffetas < Port: taffeta < Persian taftah-the name of a silk fabric deriving from the verb taftan "to shine," "to twist," and "to spin." The word is first found in English in the fourteenth century, when it was applied to a glossy plain-weave silk. It is now principally used of a very light, thin silk fabric with a distinct luster. Var: Taffety (hist). Late 20th C.

Taharga Gg Taharqa was a seventh-century Egyptian pharaoh of the Nubian dynasty, who was known for his military genius. He appears in the Bible as Tirhakah. The etymology is very uncertain; it is not even known for certain whether it represents a given name, throne name or title, but it may be of Nubian or Meroitic origin. Var: Taharka.

Taika y Finnish name-taika "magic," "spell," and "rune."

Taillte 2 Old Irish name, which featured in myth and history, though it died out as a given name in the Middle Ages. The mythological Taillte, the nursemaid of Lugh, almost certainly represents the survival in myth of a Goddess. She died from exhaustion preparing Ireland for its first sowing, and the first Lughnasadh ever held was her funeral feast. The etymology is uncertain; it may be from the Middle Irish taile "wages" and "substance" or 01: tuile "flood." Tempting, however, is to link it with CC: *talamon-"earth" and "ground," from which L: tellus-"earth"-also derives. Anglicized as Taltena. Var: Tailtiu, Tailltiu.

Taimi c~ Romani name, possibly deriving from THOMAS.

Taithleach cc Old Gaelic name meaning "peace" and "peace-making." Var: Taichleach.

Talarican c~ The name of an eighth-century Pictish bishop and saint, also known as Tarkin and TARQUIN. Little is known about him, and the fact that there is more than one well dedicated to him, such as St. Tarkin's Well at Fordyce, Aberdeenshire, hints there might be more to him than meets the eye. Probably CC: *tal- "front" and "forehead" + *r g"king" + suffix *-ano-.

Talayeh y Persian name-tali "golden" < tal- "gold."

Talbot c~ A medieval name of very uncertain origins. It is often said to be Germanic-but no Germanic name survives from which it may have derived. It is recorded in the Latinate form Talebotus and the English Talebod. There seems a reluctance to accept the possibility that it might simply be Norman-French: talebot "lamp-black", perhaps a nickname in origin. If it really is Germanic-or Old English-the second element explains easily enough as Old High German: boto or OE: boda "herald" and "messenger." The first element is very difficult. There are other names which would appear to contain it, such as Talamon and Talabert, though none seem to have preserved their original form, which is all very mysterious. From the fourteenth century, it was used as the name of a breed of dog-the aristocratic family of Talbot has a dog as its emblem. Talbot was not long used as a given name in the Middle Ages (if it ever really was), but established itself as a surname, and this is found in use from the sixteenth century.

Taliesin c~ The legendary sixth-century Welsh Bard Gwion Bach reborn as the son of Ceridwen. His myth has clear parallels with that of the Irish Finn McCool. W: Ml "brow" + iesin "fair" and "beautiful"-often translated as "shining." Poetry ascribed to Taliesin survives in the fourteenth-century manuscript Llyfr Taliesin-"the Book of Taliesin"-which includes the famous "Battle of the Trees." Early 19th C.

Talisman c? Y The ultimate source of "talisman" is Gr: telesma "money paid" and "payment." It journeyed through Arabic into Italian and Spanish, reaching English in the seventeenth century with the much more interesting

meaning it now possesses-namely an object used for protection against evil and for bringing good fortune and/or healing. 19th C.

Talitha Y Talitha was sometimes mistaken in the past as a biblical girl's name; it occurs in the phrase "Talitha cumi," which Jesus was said to have uttered when he allegedly brought a little girl back to life. The assumption was sometimes made that Talitha was the girl's name (despite the fact it is translated immediately); in fact it represents an Aramaic word meaning "(female) child." Talitha is also a name traditionally borne by two stars in Ursa Major-Talitha Australis and Talitha Borealis. Talitha Australis has the astronomical name Kappa Ursae Majoris, and Talitha Borealis is Iota Ursae Majoris. They both derive from Ar: thalith "third," representing a truncated form of their full Arabic name-"the third leap (of the Gazelle)." 17th C. Bearers: Talitha Getty (1940-71), the actress and wife of John Paul Getty, Jr.

Tallulah Y Often said to mean "leaping water" in Choctaw, the name is even sometimes linked to Irish Tuileflaith. Neither is, in fact, likely to be the true source. The Choctaw word for water is oka-which speaks for itself. Meanwhile, the Irish connection has been made only quite recently, and although the name might be now being used to render Tuileflaith into English by some, it is not its source. The name was originally taken from the Tallulah River and Tallulah Falls in Georgia. Tellingly, there also used to be a Cherokee settlement in the upper part of the river, which was also called Tallulah. In the nineteenth century, improved transport led to the river and falls becoming a popular tourist destination. A suitably dramatic explanation of the name was needed, and "thundering waters" or "loud waters" was what some prototourist information officer invented on the spot. Needless to say, no known words with such meanings exist in either Cherokee or Choctaw. In the language of the Oconee, however, who lived in North-East Georgia and North-West Carolina and spoke a dialect of Muskogee (otherwise known as Creek), there exists the word talula meaning "town." "This is the most likely the source of the name of the settlement, and it was probably the settlement which then gave its name to the river and the falls. The first people who gave the name Tallulah to their daughters in the nineteenth century may well have been early visitors to the falls, who had taken home with them happy memories-and the thought that

Tallulah would make a great name for a baby girl. Bearers: Tallulah Bankhead (1902-68), the American actress, who was named after her grandmother. Tallulah is a character in the 1976 film Bugsy Malone.

Talon ' Old French: talon "heel" < L: talus "ankle" and "ankle-bone." It is the source of the surnames Talon and Tallon-though occasionally, Talon may be a variant of Tallant, a surname deriving from the village of Talland in Cornwall. Its Cornish name is Tallann < tal "brow" or TEILO + lann-a word which is used of the enclosures of very old churches, often those built on what were sacred Pagan sites. Early 20th C.

Tam c? Y As a boy's name, Tam is a Scottish short form of THOMAS-as borne by the folk-figure Tam Lin, a man bewitched by the fairies, who is ultimately rescued by his mortal lover. As a girl's name, Tam is used as a short form of TAMARA and TAMSIN, etc.

Tamar ? Tamar is principally a biblical girl's name. Heb: tamar "date" and "date palm." Tamar is also the name of the river which forms the boundary between Devon and Cornwall. Recorded as the Tamaris in the Roman period, it gave

its name to Roman Plymouth. Like many rivers, Tamaris may well have been worshipped as a Goddess. Its etymology, is, unfortunately, very cloudy; it may be related to THAMES. 16th C.

Tamara Y Russian form of TAMAR, made popular there by the Orthodox saint of the name, who was a twelfth-/ thirteenth-century queen of Georgia (in the Caucasus). Used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. Dim: TAM, Tammy.

Tamarind Y The name of a tropical tree and its fruit, much valued for its culinary and medicinal properties. It can be used to treat numerous complaints, from fever to nausea in pregnancy. Late L: tamarindus < Ar: tamr-hindi "date of India." A plant of Saturn and Water, it is used in magic to attract love. 20th C.

Tamarintha 2 From Tamarinth-an old form ofTAMARIND. 18th C.

Tamarisk Y c? A small tree of the Mediterranean and Near East. L: tamarix "tamarisk," of unknown origin, although a link with TAMAR seems likely. In Egyptian mythology, the corpse of Osiris was enclosed within the trunk of a tamarisk, and it henceforth remained sacred to him. In magic, it is used for protection and exorcism, and considered to be under Saturn and Water. Mid-20th C. Var: Tamarix.

Tame G~ Y 'ere are three English rivers called Tame, and etymologically, it is almost certainly cognate with THAMES. The English word "tame" is from OE: tam "domesticated" and "having the qualities of a domesticated animal"-i.e. "docile." Since the sixteenth century, it has been used to mean "meek," and "weak" since the seventeenth. The surname derives from the rivers. 19th C.

Tameema Y Arabic name-tamimah "amulet."

Tamerlane c~ Usual English form of Turkish Timur-a name borne by the famous fourteenth-century Turkic warleader. Middle Turkic: timur "iron" (modern Turk: Demir). Tamerlane itself is the Anglicized form of Persian: Timur-e Lang, the name used in Persian records meaning "Timur the Lame." Var: Tamburlaine-used by Christopher Marlowe for his play of the name (c. 1587). 20th C.

Tamesa Y The Latin name of the River THAMES. 19th C. Var: Tamesis.

Tammuz e An important Mesopotamian vegetation God. His cult is particularly famous for the God's annual ritual "death," his funeral and subsequent resurrection, which began at the Summer Solstice. In Mesopotamia, this marked the start of the "dead" season, when all the vegetation withered and died beneath the sun's relentless heat. Closely associated with the Goddess Inanna, in some versions he gives his life in order to rescue Inanna from the Underworld, henceforth doomed to spend half the year there. In the sixth month he is "released," and his place is taken by his sister Geshtinana. Tammuz evolved from the Sumerian DUMUZI. It was used for the name of a month even in Babylonian times, and remains a month on the Hebrew calendar even today. Var: Thammuz. 20th C.

Tamora Y A character in Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus. Tamora is the queen of the Goths and the arch-enemy of Titus. She is not portrayed very flatteringly, which is probably why the name has seen so little use. 20th C.

Tamsin 2 Late medieval vernacular form of THOMASINA, which survived in use in the West Country until the twentieth century, when it spread back to the rest of the ESW. Var: Tamasine, Tameson, Tamson, Tamsyn, Tamzen, Tamzin. Dim: TAM, Tammy. Bearers: Tamsin Blight (1798-1856), a famous Cornish Witch; (Tamzin Outhwaite (b. 1970), a British actress. Tamsin (1999) is a fantasy novel by Peter Beagle.

Tan Y c~ In English, Tan has mostly been used as a short form of names such as TANIA. Tan is also a Chinese name. Mand: tan "dark clouds"; tan "sandalwood"; tan "long spear"; tan "black horse." It was used as the name of a female character in Chinese dramas in the nineteenth century and came to be used as a generic term for a female role in a Chinese play. The English "tan" was originally used of the crushed bark of the oak used to tan leather-its meaning of "suntanned" deriving from this only in the eighteenth century. Its ultimate source is CC: *tanno- "green oak." In Welsh, tan means "fire."

Tanah ' 2 Malay: tanah "land," "soil," "earth," and "territory."

Tanais Y The Ancient Greek name for the Russian River Don and an ancient city which lay at its mouth, where the river flows into the Sea of Azov. Tanais was also said by Clement of Alexandria (writing in the late second and early third centuries) to be the name of a Goddess, who was

joined with Aphrodite at Bactra (modern Balkh, Afghanistan). Clement almost certainly meant Tanata, a Persian form of ANAITIS. Var: Tanais.

Tanaquil Y Etruscan name. Tanaquil was the wife of Tarquinius Priscus, one of the seven legendary kings of Rome before the Republic. She was known for her prophetic abilities. The Etruscan form was Thanchvil or Thanchivil, and probably meant "gift of THANA." 19th C.

Tancred cc Old German: Thancharat-thanc "think" + radi "counsel." It was introduced to Britain by the Normans, but only survived long enough to

give rise to a surname.'This was used from the seventeenth century. Tancred (1847) was a novel by Benjamin Disraeli.

Taner c' Turkish name-tan "dawn" + er "man"; used for boys born at dawn.

Tangwen y Welsh name-tang "peace"+ gwyn. Mid-20th C.

Tangwystl Y Traditional Welsh name-tang "peace" + gwystl "pledge," the name of an obscure saint, unsurprisingly a daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog. 21st C.

Tani Y West African name. In Hausa, Tani is used for a girl born on a Monday. Masc: Tine.

Tania Y Russian short form of TATIANA. It was also the name of a legendary queen of ancient Dardania in the Hellespont, and the Medieval Latin name of St-Aubin-du'Ihenney in Normandy (see Tawny). Used in the ESW since the early twentieth century. Var: Tanya.

Tanisha Y Modern elaboration of TANIA with the suffix -isha. Mid-20th C.

Tanith Y A Phoenician moon Goddess, particularly venerated in Carthage, and known to the Greeks as Tanis (which also happens to be an anagram of "saint").The etymology isn't clear, but a link with ANAT is possible; in a list of Deities found at the city of Ugarit, Anat is recorded as da-na-tu, which could certainly have become Tanith. Controversy still surrounds Tanith over whether her worship involved child sacrifice. Current evidence strongly suggests that it was in fact nothing more than a slur laid at the door of the Carthaginians by the victorious Romans. Carthaginians weren't alone in being accused of sacrificing children- in the early days of Christianity, Christians were accused of it too. 20th C. Var: Tanit.

Tanko c~ Hausa name given to a boy born after two or more daughters.

Tanner a' English surname. OF: taneor or OE: tannere "tanner"-i.e. someone who tanned leather, deriving ultimately from < CC: *tanno-"green oak." 17th C.

Tanriga y Turkish: tanrifa "(a) Goddess."

Tansy Y The origins of the name of the herb tansy say a great deal about its mythical associations. It derives from Late L: ATHANASIA "immortality." The plant acquired the name because it was given to Ganymede to make him immortal. Ruled by Venus and Water, it is associated in magic with health and longevity. It was used in the past as an aid to conception and as an enema for treating worms in children-although the herb is not recommended for use in pregnancy, and there are now question marks over using it internally at all; the oil is highly toxic. Tansy cakes were formally made at Eastertide, and it was used as a "strewing" herb. An attractive plant, its clusters of small yellow flowers have earned it the popular name of "buttons." Late 19th C. Var: Tansie.

Tanwen Y Welsh name-tan "fire" + gwyn. 20th C.

Tao 2 e Chinese name. Mand: tao "rejoice"; tao "big wave"; and tao "peach." Tao is also the traditional way of transliterating dao in English. Meaning "way," "path," "truth," and "reason," it is the central concept of Taoism. Var: Tao Tao.

Tapio C' Finnish name. A God of the forests-essentially the Finnish equivalent of the Green Man.

Tara Y The capital of the high kings of Ireland, and an important centre of Pagan worship. Tara has come to symbolize Ireland and Irish heritage. It was here that Irish high kings performed a ritual marriage with Medb Lethderg, the Goddess of sovereignty, as part of their inauguration. Jr Ga: Teamhair na Ri, the meaning of which is usually given as "the hill of kings," even though teamhair actually means "time" and "season." Teamhair-also called Temair-is the name of a Goddess associated with Tara. She is almost certainly the figure behind "St. Teamhair." A wife of the seventh-century High King Diarmait was also said to bear the name. Tara is

also the name of a Hindu Goddess and Buddhist Bodhisttva. San: taro "star". Late 19th C.

Taraja y Swahili: taraja "wish," "hope," and "expectation."

Taran c~ Meaning "thunder" in Welsh and Cornish, a figure called Taran gets a brief mention in the Mabinogion perhaps a survival of TARANIS. It is also the name of a seventh-century Pictish king. Taran is also an Indian boy's name-San: tarana "saving" and "liberating," and used of a type of traditional music, which dates from the thirteenth century. Taran also happens to mean "farmer" and "peasant" in Romanian. 19th C. Bearers: Taran, the central character in Lloyd Alexander's Chronicles of Prydain (1964-68).

Taranis e Celtic God. CC: *torano- "thunder." His name is cognate with Thor and Thunor, and it is possible-probable even the deities are connected at a deeper level also. Inscriptions have been found bearing his name across Europe, and he may survive in Welsh mythology as TARAN and possibly also in an epithet of Pwyll-Pendaran "chief thunder." 20th C.

Taras c~ Russian and Ukrainian name from Greek Tarasios, a name of uncertain origins. It may derive from the Ancient Greek city of Taras in southern Italy-called Tarantum by the Romans and now known as Taranto. According to the legend, it was named after a figure called Taras-a son of Poseidon. The true origin is unknown, but it doesn't seem to be Greek. The ninth-century St. Tarasios (Latinized as Tarasius), venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church, is responsible for the name's use in Orthodox lands.

Tarazed c? Traditional name of Gamma Aquilae in the constellation of Aquila. Persian: taraz "balance."

Tarbh c~ Irish Gaelic: tarbh "bull." An Tarbh is the Irish name for Taurus.

Tariq c? Arabic name-ta-riq "knocking." The name of the Morning Star.

Tarka Y c The namesake of the novel Tarka the Otter (1927) by Henry Williamson. He gave it the meaning "little water wanderer," perhaps basing it on W: dwrgi "otter"-literally "water dog"-or its Cornish cognate dowrgi. In Sanskrit, tarka means "reasoning" and "logic"; in Hungarian, it means "gaudy." 20th C.

Taro c Japanese name-ta "big" + ro "man" and "son."

Tarot Y c~ The name given to a deck of cards used for divination, which developed in Italy in the fourteenth century. It: taracco "tarot"-of unknown origin. 20th C.

Tarquin c~ English form of Latin Tarquinius, the name of a famous gens, particularly associated with the kings of Rome. Lucius Tarquinius Superbus (535-496 BCE) was the last king of Rome, whose overthrow marked the start of the Roman Republic. Tarquinius is a Latinized form of the Etruscan family name Tarquenna, the meaning of which is unknown. In Scotland, Tarquin is sometimes used to render Talarican. 19th C. Dim: Quin. Tarquin Blackwood is a character in Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles (1976-2003).

Taryn Y c~ A name coined by Tyrone Power, Jr. and his wife Linda Christian for their daughter Taryn Power (b. 1953) from the letters in their first names. It was taken into general use thereafter and is used for boys as well as girls. Unsurprisingly, it has since acquired many a "meaning," being linked to TARAN and TERRA and even Gr: turannos "absolute ruler" and "tyrant" (though Taryn is generally glossed with the more salubrious meaning of "queen"). Ironically, TYRONE tends to get overlooked, which is the closest thing Taryn actually has to a real origin.

Tashi e ? Tibetan name-bkra shis "auspicious." Often combined with Tsering. Tashi Tseringma is the name given to one of the "Five Sisters of Long Life," protectresses of Dharma.

Tate c 2 English surname, deriving from OE: Tata, a given name of uncertain derivation. It may be plain OE: tata "dad." It is now firmly associated with the British art gallery, the Tate Modern, which was named after the sugar merchant Sir Henry Tate (1819-99). 18th C.

Tatiana Y Feminine form of Latin Tatianus "belonging to Tatius." Tatius is a Roman gens-borne by a Sabine king in the early days of Rome. It may, possibly, be related to L: tata "daddy," or even tatae-an exclamation of surprise. St. Tatiana is a third-century saint much venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church, which is why the name is popular in Russia. It was introduced to the ESW in the late nineteenth century. Dim: TANIA.

Bearers: Grand Duchess Tatiana Nicolaevna Romanova (1897-1918), one of the ill-fated daughters of Tsar Nicholas II.

Tatum Y c~ English surname, from Tatham in Lancashire. OE: Tata (see Tate) + ham "homestead," "village," and "estate." First appearing in the nineteenth century, the name entered general use for girls after Ryan O'Neal gave the name to his daughter in 1963.

Taurus Y Latin: taurus "bull." Taurus is familiar to most as the name of the constellation and sign of the zodiac, presiding over the period of April 20 to May 20. Its ruling planet is Venus and its element Earth, and the birthstone for Taurus is the sapphire or the topaz. The bull symbolizes strength, power, and virility. It is also strongly associated with fertility. Taureans are said to possess qualities such as kindness and resourcefulness; they are said to be romantic, but sometimes prone to sentimentalism and stubbornness. Late 19th C. Fem: Taurina;Taura (mod).

Tavy c~ A river in Devon, cognate with the THAMES. Tavy is also a short form of OCTAVIAN.

Tawni Y e Romani: tawni "young"-or "little" when referring to children. It may be the source of the Romani boy's name Teni.

Tawny c 2 An English adjective meaning "yellowishbrown" or "orangy-brown," which derives from the same root as TAN.'The English surname derives from'Ihenney in France, which in medieval times was called Tania. Its origins lie with CC: *tanno- "green oak." Tawny is now most associated with the tawny owl, so named since at least the eighteenth century. 19th C. Var: Tawney.

Tay c~ ? A Scottish river. The Gaelic form of its name is Tatha-of uncertain etymology. The most likely source is CC: *tekw-o- "to run" and "to flee," from PIE: *tekw- "to flow" and "to run." 19th C.

Taygeta ? One of the Pleiades. The name derives from Mount Taygetus near Sparta, where Taygeta was a mountain-nymph.'The etymology is probably pre-Greek and the meaning is unknown. Var: Taygete, Taygete.

Taylor Y ' English surname. OF: tailleor "tailor" < Late L: talio "to cut" and "to split" < talea "slender staff," "rod," and "stick. ""There were a lot of tailors in medieval Britain, and Taylor is a common surname. First found as a boy's name in the eighteenth century. Use for girls is mostly twentieth century. Var: Tayla (mod) Y.

Teak c?' 2 A tree native to Southeast Asia, prized for its hard, durable, and rot-resistant timber, which is much used in the construction of houses in its native lands. Elsewhere, it was used in the past for railway sleepers and ships, but is best known for being used to make furniture. Port: teca < Tamil: tekku "teak." Late 19th C.

Teal G~ ? The name of a small fresh-water bird, which has given its name to the color associated with it-a dark greenish-blue.'The surname is also derived from the bird, having originally been used as a nick-name. 18th C. Var: Teale.

Tecmessa ? In Greek mythology, Tecmessa was captured during the Trojan war by Ajax, who made her his concubine. She is an important character in Sophocles's Ajax. The etymology is unknown-since she was not Greek, she is unlikely to have had a Greek name.

Ted, Teddy cc Diminutive forms of EDWARD and THEODORE, both used as names in their own right since the nineteenth century. Bearers: "Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt (1858-1919), the American President-and inspiration for the teddy bear. Father Ted (1995-98) was a British sitcom.

Tegan Y c' St. Tegan is an extremely obscure Welsh saint of uncertain gender, whose name survives in the names of the villages of Llandegan in Pembrokeshire and Llandican in Merseyside. There is also a stream of the name-all hinting that Tegan was originally a genius loci or deity. W: teg "fair" and "beautiful" + dim. suffix -an.'he correct pronunciation is "teg-an" (in modern Welsh tegan means "toy"). However, in modern usage outside Wales (and often inside as well amongst non-Welsh speakers) it is usually pronounced "TEE-gan." First used in the late nineteenth century, it passed into general use in the ESW-especially Australia-towards the end of the twentieth, partly inspired by the character Tegan Jovanka in the British

science-fiction drama Doctor Who (1963-) in the early 1980s. Var: Teagan, Teigan (mod).

Tegeirian ? c~ Welsh: tegeirian "orchid" < teg "fair" and "beautiful" + eirian "bright," "brilliant," and "fair." 20th C.

Tegenn y Cornish: tegenn "trinket" and "jewel." 20th C.

Tegid c~ In Welsh myth, Tegid is the husband of Ceridwen, who gives his name to Llyn Tegid-the Welsh name for Bala Lake. L: tacitus "still" and "calm"-an appropriate name, as Bala Lake is generally very placid, quiet, and still.

It is quite likely the Romans would name it so; it may be the case that its original Celtic name was cognate, from CC: *taws yo-. Tegid serves little purpose in the myth except to be the husband of Ceridwen and father of her children, as though he was called forth from the lake for the purpose which he probably was; spirit or God of the still and silent lake fifteen hundred years ago, just as he still is today. 19th C.

Tegwedd Y Welsh: teg "beautiful" and "fair" + gwedd "appearance" and "form." Late 19th C.

Tegwen Y Welsh: teg "beautiful" and "fair" + gwyn. Late 19th C.

Teifi c?' 2 A Welsh river-its name is almost certainly cognate with TAVY and THAMES. 19th C.

Teign c-' Y A river in Devon, which flows through Dartmoor. A number of villages along the way have incorporated its name in theirs, perhaps indicative that Teign might originally have been more than just a river name. It is almost certainly cognate with TYNE, and both may derive from (or be cognate with) DON.

Teilo cc' A sixth-century Welsh saint, sometimes called Tel in English. He is also known in Welsh as Eliud. It may be a derivation of W: tal "forehead." Welsh names ending in -o are frequently hypocoristic forms of longer compound names and in Teilo's case, it is tempting to suggest that it

arose as a short form of TALIESIN-and perhaps St. Teilo is a Christianized version of the legendary Goddess-born bard. Late 19th C.

Teimhnin e Old Irish name, a diminutive of tem "dark." Borne by a couple of early saints. Var: Temnen.

Teite Y The name of one of the wives of Finn McCool. Possibly from 01: Mt "cord" and "cable." Var: Teide.

Telaitha Y Romani name, used since at least the nineteenth century. It is possibly a variant of TALITHA.

Telamon cc' In Greek mythology, Telamon was one of the Argonauts, father of the heroes Ajax and Teucer. Gr: telamon "sling," "belt," "strap"-a broad strap or band used to carry loads.'The word was used in ancient architecture to describe a weight-bearing column carved as a male figure. 18th C.

Telchinia Y Epithet of Hera, deriving from Telchinis in Cyprus where she had a sanctuary < TELCHIS. It was also an epithet of Athene used in Boeotia. In addition, a Telchinia is a type of nymph deriving from Telchinis-or even directly from Telchis.

Telchis G~ Y One of the Telchines-credited with being the first people to fashion anything from metal.'They were regarded as sorcerers-though not very nice ones-and the word telkhis was sometimes used to mean "spiteful." "hough references to them in literature aren't numerous, it is clear that they are very ancient, and may well represent a group of pre-Greek deities.'The etymology is very uncertain.'The Ancient Greeks derived Telchis from Gr: thelgo "to enchant" and "to charm"-hence the variant Thelgis. Var: Telchin.

Telea Y Epithet of Hera. Gr: teleos "having the power to fulfill prayers" and "all-powerful" < teleioo "to make perfect" and "to complete." Var: Teleia.

Telemachus cc Odysseus's son. Just a baby when his father left for Troy, Telemachus plays a significant part in the Odyssey. Gr: tele "far" and "far away" + makhos "battle." 18th C.

Teman c~ Y Malay: teman "friend."

Temir a' Kazakh name-temir "iron."

Temora Y Variant of TARA. This is the form used by James Macpherson in Temora (1763), one of the Ossianic poems. 19th C.

Tempe y A vale in Northern Greece, celebrated in ancient times for its beauty and its reputation for being a haunt of Apollo and the nymphs. Sometimes used as a short form of TEMPERANCE. 18th C.

Temperance y Meaning "self-restraint," "moderation," and "forbearance," it later became very much associated with the "Temperance Movement" which vigorously promoted abstinence from alcohol. Temperance is also a major arcana card in the Tarot, which in addition to symbolizing temperance, is also said to represent the blending of opposites. 16th C.
Dim: TEMPE, Tempie, Tempy. Bearers: Temperance Lloyd (d. 1682), one of the Bideford Witches, the last women to be executed in England for Witchcraft. Temperance "Tempe" Brennan is the principal protagonist and namesake of Kathy Reichs's Temperance Brennan novels (1997-), the inspiration for the American television series Bones (2005-).

Tempest o~ 2 Another word for "storm," particularly a violent one. L: tempestas "portion of time" and "season" < tempus "time." It later came to mean "weather," specifically "bad weather" and thus "storm." The English surname derives directly from the noun and was probably originally bestowed upon someone of a stormy disposition. 16th C.

Tennyson e English surname of uncertain origins. It is probably a variant of Denison, meaning "son of DENNIS." Used from the latter half of the nineteenth century in honor of the English poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-92).

Tenzin G~ Tibetan name-bstan "teachings" + dzin "upholds." Tenzin Gyatso was the name taken by the fourteenth Dalai Lama (b. 1935) upon his recognition.

Teo cc Italian and Spanish short form of names beginning with Teo- or containing it, such as Teodoro (see Theodore) and Mateo (see Matthew).

Tercel c~ "Tercel" is a word for a male hawk, and is used particularly of the peregrine falcon and the goshawk. Fr: tercel < L: tertius "third"-said to be so named because they are a third smaller than the females. 20th C. Var: Tiercel.

Tercinta 2 Malay: tercinta "beloved."

Terence a' English form of Latin Terentius, the name of a Roman gens. It is associated most with the second-century BCE Roman comic playwright Publius Terentius Afer. There are also a number of St. Terences, responsible for the name's use in Ireland to render Turlough. 17th C. Var: Terrence. Dim: TERRY, Tel. Bearers: Terence McKenna (1946-2000), the American writer, philosopher, shaman, and general polymath, who had particular interests in metaphysics and environmentalism.

Teresa y The earliest-known form of Teresa is Therasia- the name hagiographers gave to the Spanish wife of St. Paulinus. It is generally derived from Gr: therazio "to reap" or from one of the islands of the name, both of which derive from Gr: ther "wild beast" and therao "to hunt." It seems likely, however, if Therasia was really Spanish, that the name is not Latin or Greek at all, but Celtiberian. CC: *taratro "augur" became tarazr in Breton, which has tantalizing hints of Teresa. Whatever the truth, Teresa only left Spain after it was made famous by St. Teresa of Avila (1515-82), when it was taken up across Europe, first by Catholics. Var: Theresa. Dim: TESS, Tessa; TERRY, Teri, Terri, Terrie, TRACY (mod); It, Pol, Port, Sp: Teresa, Bul, Cz, Rom, Slk: Tereza, Hun: Terez, Fr: Therese, Dut, Ger: Theresia, Jr Ga: Toireasa, Treasa. Port: Teresinha, Terezinha (dim), Sp: Terecita (dim), Dut: THERA (dim). The Romani girl's name Treci is also probably from Teresa. Bearers: Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-97), whose birth name was Agnese Gonxhe Bojaxhiu; Princess Louisa Maria Teresa Stuart (1692-1712), the daughter of King James II.

Terima 2 Malay: terima "acceptance" and "thanks"; terima kasih means "thank you."

Terpesona y Malay: terpesona "spell-bound" and "wonderstruck."

Terpsichore Y One of the Muses, Terpsichore is considered the Muse of dancing. Gr: terpsis "delight" + khoros "dance." Early 20th C.

Terra y Latin: terra "earth." Late 19th C. Sp: Tierra is also in use.

Terran c 2 Originally an adjective coined from TERRA by science-fiction writers to mean "human" or "inhabitant of Earth." It first appeared as such in the late nineteenth century as Terrane. Mid-20th C. Var: Terron (mod).

Terry e Y Today, Terry is mostly considered to be a diminutive form of TERENCE or TERESA. In England in the Middle Ages, however, it was one of the usual English forms of THEODORIC. This is the source of the English surname Terry. Bearers: Terrence "Terry" Gilliam (b. 1940), the American-born animator and actor; Terence "Terry" Pratchett (b.1948), the English author.

Tertia 2 Latin: tertius "third." In Roman times, it was commonly bestowed as an informal name upon third daughters, since they all generally bore simply the feminine form of their father's nomen-the name of their gens. 17th C. Masc: Tertius.

Tertulla y Latin diminutive of TERTIA-i.e. "third little girl," borne by a number of women in Antiquity. 19th C.

Tesfaye c' Ethiopian name. Amharic: tasfa "hope."

Tess, Tessa 2 Short forms of TERESA, used as names in their own right since at least the nineteenth century. Tess

Durbeyfield is the heroine of Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles (1891).

Tetha ? The name of another of Cornwall's many shadowy saints-and another daughter of Brychan. By far the most likely source is CC: *towtf "people" and "tribe"; Touto is attested as a Gaulish (male) personal name in the Roman period. 20th C. Var: Detha, Teath. W: Tedda.

Tethys y In Greek mythology, Tethys is one of the Titans, a Goddess of the sea, the wife of Oceanus and mother of the Oceanids. She may well represent an early Hellenized form of the Akkadian Goddess TIAMAT, with the form her name taking in Greek influenced by Gr: tithe "grandmother" and tethia "old woman," or tethis "aunt"-possibly "great-aunt." Related to her name are Gr: tethos "oyster" and tethuon-another type of mollusk. 20th C.

Teucer c~ A name of unknown origin, borne by more than one figure in Greek mythology. One Teucer was a son of the river God Scamander and mountain nymph Idaea and the first king of the Troad. Another was the best archer among the Greeks who fought at Troy, famed for doing most of his shooting from behind his half-brother Ajax's shield. 20th C.

Thackeray c? English surname, deriving from ON: jak "thatch" + rd "nook" i.e. "dweller by the nook where the thatching reeds grow."The English novelist William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-63), is largely responsible for the name's use as a given name since the nineteenth century.

Thaddaeus c~ Hellenized form of Aramaic Thaddai, a name of uncertain meaning. It might be Aramaic: tawa' "praise" and "thanks." It appears in the Bible as a byname of one of the apostles called Judah. 16th C. It has seen most use in Ireland, where it has been used to render Tadhg. Var: Thaddeus. Dim: Thaddy, Thady, Tad.

Thais? Thais means "bandage" in Greek, and was borne by a Greek courtesan in the entourage of Alexander the Great on his conquests in the fourth century BCE. It is also the name of a fourth-century Egyptian saint-a former courtesan-who was the subject of a novel of 1890 by Anatole France, on which Jules Massenet based his opera Thais (1894). Its use as a given name dates to the late nineteenth century, inspired by the book and the novel. Var: Thais, Taaisa. Ru: Taisia, Taisiya. Bearers:'Thais Allard is a Witch in Cate Tiernan's Balefire series (2005-6);'Thaisa is a character in Shakespeare's Pericles, Prince of Tyre.

Thalassa 2 Greek: thalassa "sea." Thalassa is a primeval Greek Goddess of the sea. Early 20th C. In 1991, the name was bestowed upon a moon of Neptune discovered in 1989.

Thalassia Y Epithet of Aphrodite. Gr: thalassios "of the sea." It was the name of a queen of the kingdom of Characene (southern Iraq), who flourished in the late second century BCE. 20th C.

Thalia ? One of the Muses, usually considered the patroness of comedy. Gr: thalia "abundance," "plentiful," and "rich." 17th C. Var: Talia. The name has acquired a number of pronunciations-it had variants even in ancient times. Probably the closest to the original is "tho-Ll-a," but "THAY-lee-a," "THAH-lee-a," and "TAH-lee-a" are heard most. Bearers: Thalia Grace, a character in Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians series (2005-9).

Thames c~ Y The English river, which flows through London. In Roman times, it was known as the TAMESA and Tamesis, but its etymology is uncertain. Some think it may be pre-Celtic. The element Tam- or Tem- does, however, occur in a number of other rivers, such as the TAMAR, the Team, the 'Thame, the TAVY, and not one but three rivers called TAME. The Teme is another-called Tefeidiad in Welsh. Other Welsh rivers-the TEIFI and the TOWY may well be related too. A plausible Celtic source is CC: *temo- or *temeslo- "dark." 19th C.

Thamina Y Arabic name-thamin "precious." Var: Thameena.

Thamyris c 2 A mythical bard. He committed hubris when he claimed he could out-perform the Muses. They competed, he inevitably lost, and as punishment he lost not only his skill but also his sight. The historic Greek female painter Timarete is sometimes called 'Ihamyris, and 'Ihamyris is also used as a variant of TOMYRIS on occasion. Gr: thamuris "assembly."

Thana Y Arabic name-thana "tribute" and "compliment." Thana is also the name of an Etruscan Goddess of the dawn. It was used as a female praenomen by the Etruscans. Var: THANIA.

Thandiwe ? South African name. Zulu: thandiwe "loved" and "dear." Dim: Thandie. Bearers: Thandiwe "Thandie" Newton (b. 1972), the English actress.

Thane c? Old English: *þegn* "thane," cognate with OG: *degan* "boy" and "servant," and ultimately related to Gr: *teknon* "child." Its meaning in English was also originally "servant" and "attendant." It took on military connotations, thus acquiring the meaning "warrior," and by the ninth century was being used to refer to a man who held lands in return for military service. The surname derives from the same source. 17th C. Var: *Thegn*, *Thayne*.

Thania 2 The traditional name of two stars in Ursa Major-also called TANIA. Thania Australis and Thania Borealis are known scientifically as Mu Ursae Majoris and Lambda Ursae Majoris, respectively. Ar: *thane* "second" a truncated form of their full name: "the second leap (of the gazelle)." Thania is also a variant of the THANA. Late 19th C.

Thanom c 'Thai name-*thanom* "to cherish," "to nurture," and "to conserve."

Thawin Y Thai name-*thawin* "to desire" and "to yearn for."

Thea Y Thea arose as a short form of female names such as THEODORA, DOROTHEA, and ANTHEA, etc. It also means "(a) Goddess" in Greek on its own. 18th C.

Theano ? Borne by a number of women in Greek myth and history, including a historical sixth-century BCE philosopher and a mythical priestess of Athene at Troy. Gr: *theos* "a God" + fem. suffix -6. 19th C.

Theda Y Theda arose as a short form of names such as THEODORA and THEODOSIA. The variant Theoda also existed in Saxon times as a short form of names beginning OE: *jeod* "tribe." Theoda, technically, is masculine. Theode is feminine. The term Theodism-derived from the same Old English word-is a Pagan path which embraces the religion of the Anglo-Saxons.

Thelda Y Thekla is a contracted form of THEOCLEA borne by a very early saint, who is venerated particularly in the Eastern Orthodox Church. 19th C. Var: *Teckla*, *Tecla*, *Theckla*, *Thecla*. Pol, Ru, Scand: *Tekla*.

Thelema 2 Greek: thelema "will" < thelo "to wish" and "to want." It is the name given to the religious philosophy developed by Aleister Crowley in the early twentieth century, the central principal of which is "do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law." 20th C.

Thelma Y Thelma owes its existence to the novelist Marie Corelli and her novel *Thelma: A Society Novel* (1887), in which Thelma is a Norwegian princess. Corelli didn't invent the name, but she made it known and most use post-dates the publication of her novel. She got it from Emilie Flygare-Carlen's *Kyrkoinvigningen i Hammarby* (1841) translated from Swedish into English as *The Magic Goblet* (1845). Where Flygare-Carlen acquired the name is not known she may be responsible for its coinage. Rather than having anything to do with THELEMA as is sometimes suggested, Flygare-Carlen is more likely to have been inspired by SELMA; the Ossianic poems were very popular in Continental Europe. Bearers: Thelma Dickinson, one of the principal characters in the American film *Thelma and Louise* (1991); Thelma Bates, a ghost in the British drama *Hex* (2004-5).

Thelxis Y Greek: thelxis "an enchanting" < thelgo "to enchant" or "to charm."

Themis Y A Greek Goddess. Gr: themis "law"-specifically laws established by tradition, rather than created by government. Early 20th C.

Themisto Y A name from Greek mythology, borne by more than one character, among them one of the Nereids. One Themisto accidentally killed her own children (when intending to kill her step-children). Gr: themistos "oracular." Early 20th C.

Theo c~ 2 By and large, a short-form of any name beginning with Theo-. These are usually Greek, where Theo- stands for theos "a God," or Germanic, where Theo- is theuda "people". It is now mostly masculine, but is also used for girls, and has been since the nineteenth century.

Theobald c Old German: theuda "people" + bald "bold." Introduced to Britain by the Normans, it reinforced the Old English cognate Theodbeald.

The German spelling was early influenced by the numerous Greek names beginning with Theo-. Var: Tebald, Tibald, TYBALT.

Theoclea y Greek: theos "a God" + kleos "glory" and "fame." The name of a fourth-century saint; a sister of the Pagan emperor Alexander Severus (208-235 CE) also bore the name. It was later simplified to THEKLA. 19th C. Var: Theocleia, Theoclia.

Theocritus cc Greek: theos "a God" + kritos "chosen," The name of a third-century BCE Greek poet.

Theodora Y Feminine form of THEODORE. Borne by more than one saint, the name is also associated with more than one Byzantine Empress. It has been used in the ESW since the sixteenth century, but is most popular in Orthodox lands, such as Russia. Dim: THEO, THEA, DORA. Ru: Fedora, Fyodora, Feodora. It, Pol, Port, Rom, Scand, Sp: Teodora, Hun: Teodora.

Theodore c~ Theodore is the English form of Greek Theodoros-Gr: theos "a God" + doron "gift," which was Latinized as Theodorus. The name was used in Pagan times notable bearers being the sixth-century BCE sculptor Theodorus of Samos and the philosopher Theodorus the Atheist (c. 340-c. 250 BCE). The name also became popular with early Christians, and there are several saints of the name. 16th C. Dim: TED, Teddy, THEO. Ru: Feodor, Fyodor, Cro, Cz, Pol, Rom, Scand, Serb: Teodor, It, Port, Sp: Teodoro, Fin: Teuvo, Fr: Theodore, Hun: Tivadar. Bearers: Theodore, the hero of Horace Walpole's novel The Castle of Otranto (1764).

Theodoric cc Old German: theuda "people" + ricja, making it cognate with TUDOR. There was a cognate Old English name too-Theodric-but the name's use in the Middle Ages is largely down to the Germanic, which was introduced by the Normans. The usual forms in the Middle Ages were Terrick and TERRY. Theodoric returned in the seventeenth century. Var: Theodorick. Fr: Thierry. See also Derek.

Theodosia Y Feminine form of THEODOSIUS. 16th C. Dim: THEDA. Bearers: 'Ikeda Bara (1885-1955), the American actress-whose real name was Theodosia Burr Goodman; Theodosia Throckmorton, the eponymous heroine of the children's books by R. L. LaFevers.

Theodosius c~ Essentially a variant of THEODOREGr: theos "a God" + didomi "to give." Fr: Theodose. Bearers: Theodosius of Bithynia (c. 160-100 BCE), a noted astronomer; Emperor Theodosius (347-95), one of the key figures responsible for the widespread suppression-and subsequent persecution-of European, Middle Eastern, and North African Paganism.

Theona Y In Greek mythology, 'Theona was a sister of the Trojan queen Hecuba. Gr: theos "a God." Late 19th C.

Theophania y Greek: theophaneia "vision of (a) God" and Theophania-the name of a festival at Delphi, where the cult images of Apollo and other Gods and Goddesses were shown to the people. Gr: theos "a God" + phaino "to bring to light," "to cause to appear," "to show," and "to reveal."The word was adopted as a variant of EPIPHANY, and came into use as a given name in the Middle Ages for girls born at Epiphany-i.e. January 6th. It rapidly developed the vernacular form TIFFANY.Theophania returned in the seventeenth century.

Theophila y Feminine form ofTHEOPHILUS. 16th C. Bearers:'Theophila Gwatkin (1782-1844), the niece of the painter Sir Joshua Reynolds, widely believed to be the model for his painting TheAge ofInnocence (1785).

Theophilus a' Greek: theos "a God" + philos "beloved," "dear" and "friend." The name was used in pre-Christian times, but is best known as the name of a character in the New Testament. 16th C. Ru: Feofil, Pol: Teofil, It: Teofilo, Port, Sp: Teofilo, Fr: Theophile. Bearers:'Theophilus Howard, Earl of Suffolk (1584-1640), the English statesman; Theophilus Cibber (1703-58), the actor and playwright; Professor'Theophilus Branestawm, the hero of Norman Hunter's Professor Branestawm books (1933-83).

Theophrastus 'Theophrastus (c. 371-c. 287 BCE) was a Greek philosopher, who took over Aristotle's peripatetic school held at the Lyceum in Athens. Gr: theos "a God" + phrazo "to tell," "to declare," or "to advise"; the very similar phrastus, however, meant "reflection." 17th C.

Theoxena Y Greek: theos "a God" + xenos "stranger," "guest," or "foreign." It was borne by aThessalian woman, sometime around 200 BCE, who was hailed as a heroine in ancient times for forcing her step-children to commit

suicide rather than fall into the hands of their enemy, King Philip V of Macedon. Her story is recorded by the Roman historian Livy in the first century BCE. The 'Iheoxenia was the name of a Greek festival held at Delphi and elsewhere in honor of all Gods.

Thera 2 The island of Thera was the site of a massive volcanic eruption in the Bronze Age, blamed for causing the collapse of Minoan Civilization. The civilization which flourished on the island-and its subsequent destruction-is considered the most likely source of the Atlantis myth. Gr: thera "hunting of wild beast" and "the chase" < ther "wild

beast." Thera is also a Dutch short form of TERESA. Late 19th C.

Thermasia 2 Epithet of Demeter. Gr: thermasia "warmth" and "heat."

Thermuthis 2 The name given in the first century by the Roman writer Josephus to the daughter of the pharaoh who allegedly adopted Moses. Its origins are not remotely clear, but if genuinely Egyptian, it may be a corruption of THUTMOSE. Late 17th C. Dim: Thersie.

Theron c~ Greek: ther "wild animal" + male name suffix -on. Borne by a fifth-century BCE ruler of Acragas in Sicily, to whom Pindar dedicated two odes. Potnia'Iheron Queen of the Wild Beasts-is an epithet of Artemis, but in this instance, theron is genitive plural, meaning "of the wild beasts." 19th C.

Thesan Y Etruscan Goddess of the dawn.

Theseus cc One of the best known Greek heroes-the killer of the Minotaur. Gr: tithemi "to put," "to place," and "to set." 19th C.

Thetgo (' One of the forms taken of the name of the Breton and Cornish saint, who usually goes by the name of Tudy. CC: *touto- + dim. suffix *-eko-. Thetgo may represent a survival of TOUTATES-and is perhaps connected in some way with Tetha. Var: Tudec, Tudi, Tudinus, Tudius.

Thetis Y The mother of Achilles. Thetis is one of the Nereids. A prophecy said that she was destined to give birth to a son greater than his father, and

so, although a number of Gods thought she was the bee's knees, none of them wanted a liaison with her for fear of the consequences. They decided, therefore, to marry her to the most worthy mortal-and chose Peleus. All the Gods and Goddesses attended the wedding, except Eris-Strife-who was furious at not being invited. In true bad-fairy style, she gatecrashed with the sole intention of causing trouble, which she did by tossing a golden apple among the guests, upon which were inscribed the words "for the fairest." This set in motion a series of events which led to the Trojan War and the death of the happy couple's only son. Gr: tithemi "to place," probably a reference to placing Achilles in the River Styx in an attempt to make him immortal. However, the verb means "to conceive" when used of women along with paida/huion hupo zonei-"child/son under the girdle." 19th C.

Thi y Vietnamese name-thi "poetry."

Thida Y Khmer name-thiidaa "daughter" and "girl." Var: Thyda.

Thip Y Thai name-thip "divine," "supernatural," "spiritual," and "heavenly."

Thisbe Y Thisbe is the Roman equivalent of Juliet-her Romeo is Pyramus. Thisbe was also the name of a town in Boeotia, said to have been named after a nymph of the name. The etymology is very uncertain and is probably pre-Greek. 17th C.

Thistle Y e As Culpeper succinctly puts it, "surely Mars rules it, it is such a prickly business." It is also ruled by Fire and under Aries. There are a number of different thistles valued in herbal medicine and magic alike-and generally most are despised by farmers, gardeners, and anyone who happens to stand on one while out and about in an open space. As a result, the poor thistle has been much maligned; Shakespeare calls it "rough thistle" and places it with the "hateful Docks." Indeed, along with thorns, it is the plant that the ever-so-loving Yahweh curses the Earth with just because Adam munched an apple. Despite this, the thistle is a symbol of nobility. OE:jistil "thistle." Among thistles of note are the holy thistle, which is also known as the blessed thistle, considered a heal-all in the past. It is still valued as a potent diaphoretic, and for stimulating lactation.

Meanwhile, the milk thistle is particularly valued as a tonic for the liver, and the scotch or cotton thistle-well known as the symbol of Scotland-was used to treat cancers in the ancient world. In the past, its cotton-thistledown-was used to stuff pillows. Magically, thistles are used to promote strength, and for protection and purification. 19th C.

Thoe 2 One of the Nereids. Gr: thoos "swift" and "nimble." 19th C.

Thomas e Thomas is the Greek form of Aramaic: tam "twin"-a byname used for one of the apostles; in the plural, it is the Aramaic name for Gemini. According to later writers, Thomas's "real" name was Didymos Judas Thomas, and he was called Thomas to distinguish him from the other Judases. The character is also referred to as Didymus-Greek for "twin." Although "twin" is superficially not the most inspiring of meanings, it does imply duality, an important concept in Paganism, particularly associated with the God, who is often seen as having dual aspects-the Oak and

Holly Kings, the sacrificial kings who die and are reborn. The "Heavenly Twins"-Gemini-one divine, the other mortal, were an important focus of veneration in Ancient Rome and may be viewed as symbolic of the mortal and immortal in all life. 11th C. Dim: TOM, Tommy, Tommie; MACE (hist); TAM (Sc). Ru: Foma, Dut: Maas (dim), Hun: Tamas; Tomi (dim), Maori: Tamati, Sc Ga: Tamhas, Tomas, Sc: Tammass, Tavish, Dut, Fr, Get, Gr, Scand: Thomas, Dut, Lith, Nor, Sw: Tomas, Jr Ga, Port, Sp: Tomas, Cz, Slk: Toma"s, Pol: Tomasz, It: Tommaso, W: Tomos, Est: Toomas, Maltese: Tumas, Fin: Tuomas; Tomi, Tommi, Tuomo (dim). Bearers: Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), the English philosopher; Thomas Heywood (c. 1570-1641), the co-author of the play The Late Lancashire Witches (1633); Thomas Middleton (1580-1627), author of The Witch (1616); Thomas Rudd (1583-1656), an English ceremonial magician and alchemist; Thomas Brown (d. 1704), accused of Witchcraft at Pittenweem, and starved to death in prison; Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), the American President; Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), the English novelist.

Thomasina Y Feminine form of THOMAS. Used since the fourteenth century, largely in the vernacular form Thomasin. Thomasina returned in the eighteenth century. Var: Thomasia, Thomasine, Thomasyn, Thomazin, Thomazine, Thomson, Thomsyn, Tomasyn, Tomazine, Tomson, Tomsyn

(hist); TAMSIN. Dim: SINA, ZINA. Bearers: Thomasina Tuckerton, an apparent victim of Witchcraft in Agatha Christie's *The Pale Horse* (1961); Thomasina Coverley, a character of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* (1993). The *Three Lives of Thomasina* (1964) is a Disney film based on Paul Gallico's *Thomasina* (1957), about a cat called Thomasina.

Thor c~ One of the chief Gods of the Norse and Germanic pantheon, and the equivalent of the Anglo-Saxon THUNOR. Almost always depicted wielding his hammer, he features prominently in many Norse and Germanic myths. The Romans identified him with Jupiter himself, although they acknowledged that chief of the Germanic Gods was Mercury-i.e. Odin. His name means simply "thunder," and he may well be one and the same with the Celtic Taranis, who was also equated with Jupiter by the Romans. Thor occurs as a given name in the Middle Ages-probably as a short form of names beginning with Thor. It returned in the nineteenth century.

Thora Y A girl's name derived from THOR, although it may have arisen as a hypocoristic form of other names containing Ithor, such as THORILD. In use in the Middle Ages, it is one source of the surnames Thor and Thore. Revived 19th C. Bearers: Thora Hird (1911-2003), the British actress.

Toorbert a Medieval hybrid name. THOR + beorht/berht. It was used in the Middle Ages enough to create surnames such as Tarbert. Revived 20th C. Var: Thurbert, Torbert, Turbert (hist).

Thorbiorn ?' Old Norse: I'orbigrn--THOR + biyrn "bear." Used in the Middle Ages. Var: Torbern, Turbern, Turbyn.

Thorbrand c Old Norse-THOR + brandr "brand" and "firebrand." Used in the Middle Ages.

Thorfinn c Old Norse name-THOR + FINN. It was borne by a number of figures in tenth-/eleventh-century history, such as "Ihorfinn "Skullsplitter," Earl of Orkney. Bearers: 'Thorfinn Rowle, a (bad) wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Thorgar e Old Norse: horgeirr--THOR + geirr "spear." Used in the Middle Ages. Var: Thorger.

Thorgerda Y Old Norse name-THOR + GERDA. A character in the thirteenth-century Egils Saga. She is also the eponymous heroine of John Payne's Thorgerda (1880).

Thorild Y Old Norse: horhildir--THOR + hildir "battle." Used in the Middle Ages. Var: Thorild, Torild, Thorilda, Torilda, Durilda. Scand: Torild, Thorild.

Thormod Old Norse: Þormóðr-THOR + m66r "wrath." Used in the Middle Ages. Var: Thormoth, Thormodh, Thurmot, and Turmod.

Thormund e Medieval hybrid name-THOR + OE: mund "protection."

Thorn e 1 In its most basic sense, a thorn is a needle-like spike found on a number of plants, but it has been used of those trees and shrubs which bear them from as early as the eighth century-in particular hawthorn. The surname Thorn arose for someone who lived near thorn trees or in places called Thorne-which also derive from "thorn." 16th C. Var: Thorne.

Thorold a' Old Norse: horaldr-THOR + vald "power" and "might." It didn't survive the Middle Ages and examples

from the seventeenth century onwards represent use of the surname which derived from it. Var: horvaldr, Thorald, Tuold (hist). Scand: Torvald.

Thoth e The Ibis-headed Egyptian God of the heart and mind, associated with magic, law, and judgment, particularly of the dead. Egyptian: DHw j: DHw- is thought possibly to mean "ibis" with j (generally meaning "as" and "once") carrying the sense of "like a." Var: Djehuty.

Thrift Y Thrift has two distinct meanings: the quality of economy, much valued by Puritans, Victorians, and those with such a mindset, and the small flower. Originally, the former actually meant "thriving," "prosperity," and "good luck," deriving as it did from the verb "to thrive." Only from the sixteenth century did it acquire its meanings of "economical management"

at best and "parsimony" at worst. As for the flower, it seems to have derived from the same source, though from the original meaning (given the fact that it thrives on the sea-shore where few other plants will grow.) In the language of flowers, thrift represents sympathy. The surname also derives from the earlier sense of "thriving," etc. 17th C.

Thrima 2 A Valkyrie. The etymology is unclear, but it may represent a hypocoristic form of a compound name beginning with ON: j5ri "three" and containing a second element beginning with "m"-modir "mother," perhaps?

Thruda Y A Valkyrie. Her name is cognate with OG: drudi and OE: jbrvd "strength." Var: Thrud.19th C.

Thuban Traditional name of Alpha Draconis-the constellation Draco. Ar: thu'ban "snake." From the early fourth millennium until the mid-second, Thuban was the North Star. Late 20th C.

Thubten 3~ Tibetan name-thub bstan "the Buddha's teachings" < thub "Buddha" + bstan "teachings."

Thula Y Zulu and Ndebele: thula "be silent!"

Thunder J There is a rawness and wildness about thunder; even those who have detached themselves most from Nature are rarely untouched by its unearthly rumble, its promise of a storm, when Nature unleashes her potency and demonstrates just how feeble mankind really is, for all its posturing, in the face of true power. Small wonder, then, that in ancient times, it was associated with the most powerful of Gods. OE: bunor "thunder"; Pundr was an epithet of Odin. The English surname derives in part from/unor and in part from OF: tondeur "shearer." 19th C.

Thunor c~ Anglo-Saxon name for `Thor. OE: junor "thunder."

Thursday Y c To the Romans, Thursday was Iovis diesthe day of Jupiter. As Jupiter was equated with Thor, the day became "Thor's day" in English. In the rhyme "Monday's Child," Thursday's child usually has "far to go," but in other versions, where the latter days of the week are swapped

around, it is Thursday's child who "works hard for a living." Both sum up quite well the way many people feel about Thursdays, when the drudgery of the week's work is starting to take its toll, but the weekend isn't quite in sight. 18th C.

Thurstan c~ Old Norse: Thorstein-THOR + stein "stone." It survived the Middle Ages long enough to give rise to the surname, which is probably responsible for examples of the name after the seventeenth century. Var: Thurston.

Thutmose c~ The name of a number of Egyptian pharaohs. Egyptian: THOTH + ms(i) "to bear"-"Thoth bore (him)" or "born of Thoth." Var: Thutmosis, Tutmosis. 20th C.

Thyas 2 Another name for a Maenad or Bacchant-a follower of Dionysus. Gr: thuas < thud "to rage" and "to desire eagerly." 18th C.

Thyme Y c Mostly thought of as a culinary herb, thyme is a valuable medicinal plant also, being very useful for treating coughs and chest infections. It makes a particularly good gargle for tonsillitis, though is not advised for use in pregnancy. Thyme symbolizes strength and courage, an association it has had since at least the medieval period. Ruled by Venus and Water, and under Aries, it is used in magic to promote health and love. It can also be used to instill courage, increase psychic powers, and for purification. L: thymum < Gr: thumon < thud "to offer by burning" and thus "to sacrifice"-so-named because of its use in ancient incenses and purification rituals. 19th C.

Thyrsus c~ A ritual staff entwined with ivy and vine leaves with a pine cone at the top. It was carried by devotees of Dionysus-particularly Maenads (Bacchants)-and it is believed the staff was made of a stem of the giant fennel. The ultimate etymology is uncertain-it is almost certainly non-Greek. Given Dionysus's own origins, it might be Thra

cian. Intriguingly, there is a tempting option in what little of the Thracian language we know-*tirsas "thicket." There is a third-century St. Thyrsus-who may well be simply this highly symbolic sacred symbol turned into a saint (other objects have also been sanctified-most notably, the cross). The

saint is even depicted carrying a thyrsus. Ru: Firs, Fr: Thyrse, Port, Sp: Tirso, It: Tirzo.

Tia 2 Originally a pet-form of names ending in -tia, such as CONSTANTIA, HORATIA, and LETITIA. It is probably no coincidence, however, that most use has been since the drink Tia Maria came onto the market-tia meaning "aunt" in Spanish; the drink being reputedly named after an "Aunt Maria." It was also promoted by its appearance as the name of an alien girl in Alexander Key's novel *Escape to Witch Mountain* (1968)-and the subsequent film versions. The fact that Tia is one way in which the name of an Egyptian Princess-sister of Ramesses II-can be transliterated (she is also called Tiya) has since been observed, and this may be the reason some now choose the name. The origins of this Tia are not clear-there is good evidence that it may not to be of Egyptian origin. Other ways her name is transliterated are Tuya, Tiy, Tiaa, Tiye, Tiyi, Taia, and Teje.

Tiamat Y A Mesopotamian Goddess of the sea. Akkadian: tiamtu "sea." Late 20th C.

Tiana Y Tiana arose as a short form of names ending in -tiana, in particular CHRISTIANA. Its use as an independent name dates to the nineteenth century. The Romani girl's name Tiena-also used since at least the nineteenth century-is probably from the same source. Tiana is also the name of a Goddess, known from one Roman era inscription found in Croatia. Bearers: Tiana, the heroine of Disney's *Princess and the Frog* (2009). Var: Tianna, Ti'ana.

Tiara ? Latin/Greek: tiara "tiara"-originally used of a type of peaked turban worn by the Persians. Later it was applied to a headdress worn by the pope, and only came to be used of ornamental coronets in the seventeenth century. 19th C.

Tiarella 2 Botanical name of the foamflower. It was named by Linnaeus in the eighteenth century, who coined it by combining TIARA with the suffix -ella.

Tiberius cc Roman praenomen, derived from the River Tiber in Rome. The meaning of the river's name is not known; it may well be pre-Latin. Roman legend said it was named after Tiberinus Silvius, a king of Alba Longa who drowned in it-he probably represents the original God of the river. Bearers: Emperor Tiberius (42 BCE-37 CE), stepson of Augustus and the second Roman Emperor; James T. (Tiberius) Kirk, the captain of the Enterprise in the American science-fiction series Star Trek (1966-69).

Tibor c? Hungarian form of Latin Tiburtius, a Roman cognomen derived from the River Tiber in Rome, and borne by two saints.

Tide c' 2 Old English: tid-"time"; this sense survives as a suffix in words such as "Yuletide." It has been used of the tide of the seas and oceans-flooding and ebbing through the power of the moon-since the fifteenth century. 20th C.

Tien Y Vietnamese name-tien "pixie."

Tiernan c~ Anglicized form of the Irish surname O Tighearnain "descendant of Tighearnan." Tighearnan is an Old Irish name < tighearna "lord" + dim. suffix -an. Var: Tiarnan, Tigernan (hist). 19th C.

Tierney c~ Anglicized form of the Irish surname O Tighearnaigh "descendant of Tighearnach." Tighearnach is an Old Irish name < tighearna "lord." Var: Tigernach, Tiarnach. 18th C.

Tiffany y Medieval form of THEOPHANIA. In French folklore, Tifaine was said to be the mother of the fabled 'Three Kings.' The name lasted longest in Devon and Cornwall, in forms such as Teffany, Tiffony, and Tyffeny. By the nineteenth century, it was by and large restricted to middlename use, for boys as well as girls, suggesting that it represented a transferred use of the surname, but in one or two cases, it may have been a survival of the original name. Its revival in the twentieth century was largely due to the fame of Tiffany and Co. Originally founded in 1837, it became Tiffany and Co. in 1853. Tiffany's featured frequently in popular culture from the 1940s. Bearers: Tiffany Case, a character in Ian Fleming's Diamonds Are Forever (1956) and the 1971 film of the same name, who states explicitly

that she was named after the store. Most use of the name postdates this book and film.

Tiger c~ 2 Until not all that long ago, tigers may as well have been mythical animals as far as most of the populace of Europe and North America were concerned, and they were often lumped together with other fabled beasts such as dragons and griffins. Roman Emperors occasionally imported them to fight in wild beast shows at the Colosseum, and an example sometimes ended up in the menageries of a medieval or early modern king. Only after Europeans ventured into Asia did tigers leave the realm of legends-and then were hunted almost to extinction. They are now protected, but are still in danger of extinction in the wild. L/Gr: tigris. Largely used as a nickname until recently. Bearers: Eldrick "Tiger" Woods (b. 1975), the American professional golfer.

Tigerlily Y The popular name of more than one lily with orange blooms marked with black spots, classically *Lilium lancifolium*, which is native to Northeast Asia and Japan. There is also a species native to North America of the name. As Tiger Lily, it features famously as the name of the Native American princess in J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* (1904). 20th C. Dim: TIGER, TIGGY, LILY, Tilly.

Tiggy Y Tiggy has the ring of an old-fashioned petname for something-or-other. In fact, it was barely known before the twentieth century, and owes much of its existence to Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle* (1905). It is now used as a pet-form of names such as ANTIGONE and TIGERLILY, as well as independently. Bearers: Tiggy Legge-Bourke (b. 1965)-whose real first names are Alexandra Shan-acquired notoriety in the 1990s as the nanny of Prince William and Harry of Wales.

Tigist y Ethiopian name. Amharic: tagst "patience."

Tilia y Latin name for the linden. Early 20th C.

Timaeus cc Latin form of the Greek Timaios < time "honor," "esteem," and "worth." One of Plato's philosophical dialogues, written in the fourth century BCE, is entitled *Timaeus*. Early 20th C.

Timarete y An Ancient Greek female painter of the fifth/ fourth century BCE. Gr: time "honor" + arete "excellence" and "virtue."

Time Y c? Pronounced with two syllables, Time is Gr: time "honor." Sometimes it is English "time." Time is that most abstract and intangible of things, providing the theatrical backdrop against which we play out our lives. It is something which has fascinated philosophers and scientists for millennia. It is inexorably bound up with Fate-whether it wants to be or not; whether or not it is possible to foretell the future is something which is still hotly debated, and likely to be so for as long as there are humans to debate it unless science is able to pronounce a verdict one day, one way or another. 18th C.

Timea y Hungarian name. It was first used in Mor Jokai's novel Az arany ember-A Man of Gold (1873). The character was half-Greek and half-Turkish, and her name was almost certainly coined as a feminine form of TIMAEUS. It is frequently, however, said to be derived from EUTHYMIA, but this is probably because her father assumed the name Euthym < Greek Euthymius, the masculine form of that name.

Timobo a' Twi: timobo "compassion," "tenderness," and "pity"

Timon a' Greek: time "honor" + suffix -on. Timon was a common name in Ancient Greece, and is the title character in Shakespeare's Timon of Athens. Timon also features as the name of a meerkat in Disney's The Lion King (1994). 17th C.

Timothy c~ English form of Timotheus, the Latinized form of Greek Timotheos < timao "to honor" and "to esteem" + theos "a God." St. Timothy was a biblical character-a chum of St. Paul. 16th C. Dim: Tim, Timmy. Ru: Timofei, It, Port, Sp: Timoteo, Timothee, Pol: Tymoteusz. Bearers Timothy "Tim" Brooke Taylor (b. 1940), the English comedian and writer; Timothy "Tim" Curry (b. 1946), the English actor; Timothy Dalton (b. 1946), the Welsh actor; Timothy "Tim" Burton (b. 1958), the American film director; "Tiny" Tim Cratchit, a character in Dickens's A Christmas Carol (1843); Timmy the dog in Enid Blytons Famous Five (1942-63); Tim the Enchanter in the British film Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975).

Tin c~ Y Tin is associated with Jupiter. It is highly malleable and similar in appearance to silver when polished; along with copper, it has been used since ancient times to make bronze. It is also a key ingredient of pewter. Sources of it in the ancient Mediterranean, however, were limited, and the principal centre of tin mining was Cornwall. Old Teutonic: *tin-o'', which may also be the source of the word "zinc." Tin is used as a name in some places-notably Croatia-as a short form of MARTIN. 20th C.

Tina ? Originally, a short form of names ending in -tina, such as CHRISTINA and JUSTINA. In Finnish and Estonian, tina means "tin" and "pewter." Used independently since the nineteenth century.

Ting y Chinese name. Mand: ting "graceful"; "dragonfly"; "clap of thunder."

Tinne ? cc Ogham name for the holly. It is the name of the eighth month of the Celtic Tree Calendar-July 18 until August 4. CC: *tanno- "green oak." The fact that the words for "holly" and "green oak" derive from the same source underlines the close relationship between the two trees.

Tintagel c' Y A village in Cornwall, home to the ruins of a castle on a small island just off-shore, popularly identified as King Arthur's Camelot. Little remains, but archaeology has demonstrated occupation there since the sub-Roman period, although what is visible above the ground is thirteenth century. The etymology is problematic; possibly CC: *d3no- "fort" + "rampart" + *tegos "house" and "family," or Cornish: *tagell "neck of land." 20th C.

Tintin c~ Y A French comic book character, who made his debut in 1929. The origin isn't entirely certain, but the most likely source is Fr: tin tin, used as an exclamation with the sense of "nothing doing!" The similar Tin-Tin was used for a female character in the British supermarionation series Thunderbirds (1965-66). Late 20th C.

Tiponi Y c~ Hopi: tiponi-the name of a ceremonial object made from cottonwood and feathers for major ceremonies, and afterwards kept in the clan house of the those who preside over the particular ceremony.

Tir e The fourth month of the Iranian calendar, corresponding to the sign of Cancer. It derives its name from the Zoroastrian God of rain, originally known as Tishtrya, and later identified with Apollo. Tir is still regarded as an angel in modern Islamic Iran, and his name is found in names such as Tirdad "given by Tir" and the girl's name Tira. Entirely unrelated is the Irish *tir* meaning "land," which features famously in Irish myth as *Tir na nOg*-the "Land of Youth."

Tiranna Y Mesopotamian name for Vega. Sumerian: *tiranna* "rainbow" < *tir* "forest" + an "sky" The word was also used to describe an ornament in stone or metal and features in magical texts as the name of a part of the liver when used for divination.

Tiree Y cc A small and remote Scottish island, which gets a mention in Enya's *Orinoco Flow* (1988). Its Gaelic name is *Tiriodh-Sc Ga*: *fir* "land" + *iodh* "corn" and "food." The variant *Tyree* is also a Scottish surname, said to derive from *Macintyre-Mac an Tsaoir* "son of the carpenter." Late 20th C.

Tiresias c' The name of the androgynous blind seer of Greek mythology. Gr: *teiros* "constellations" and "heavenly signs" + *eido* "to see." Var: *Teiresias*.

Tirion Y Welsh: *tirion* "kind," "tender," "gentle," and "humane." Late 19th C.

Tirzah Y Biblical name-though its meaning is uncertain. It is generally thought to derive from Heb: *tirtsah* "acceptance" or "favorable," or from the name of a town. The German form *Thirza* came into use in the ESW in the nineteenth century after it featured in Salomon Gessner's *The Death of Abel* (1758), translated into English later in the century. Var: *Thirza*, *Thirzah*, *Thirsa*, *Thyrza*. Bearers: *Thyrza Grey*, a Witch in Agatha Christie's *The Pale Horse* (1961).

Tisiphone ? One of the Furies-the Goddess of vengeance. *Tisiphone* pursued murderers. Gr: *tisis* "vengeance" + *phonos* "murder" and "blood-shed." 20th C.

Titan c~ The name of the Greek Gods before the Olympians. It is generally believed that they represent the Gods and Goddesses of the pre-Greek inhabitants of Greece although many of them have identifiably Greek names. Battles among the Gods are a feature of other mythologies, so it may be that the Titans are just as Greek as the Olympians. The etymology of "Titan" itself is very uncertain-and this may well be pre-Greek. It was explained in Antiquity as deriving from Gr: *titaino* "to stretch out" and "to strain." In the nineteenth century, a moon of Saturn, discovered in 1655, was named Titan. 19th C.

Titania y The queen of the fairies in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. L: *Titanius* "belonging to a TITAN." It was first used by Ovid in *Metamorphoses* (8 BCE). Since the 1920s, "titania" has also been used as a name for titanium dioxide, used in all manner of products, from the paint pigment titanium white to sunscreen. 19th C.

Titanic 2 c? English-"pertaining to a TITAN," "Titanlike," and thus "colossal." Following the sinking of the famous ocean liner of the name in April 1912, *Titanic* was bestowed as a given (mostly middle) name, possibly by those who had been affected by the disaster.

Titian C? English form of Latin *Titianus* "belonging to TITUS." Used as a cognomen in Roman times, it was borne by a couple of saints of the sixth and seventh centuries. Since the nineteenth century, *Titian* has been used in English for anything in the style of Titian-the Italian artist *Tiziano Vecelli* (c. 1485-1576). In particular, it is used of a shade of reddish brown which Titian was particularly fond of. It: *Tiziano*; *Tiziana* Y. 18th C. Bearers: *Titian Ramsay Peale* (1799-1885), the American artist.

Titilayo Y Nigerian name. Yoruba: *tití* "forever" + *ayo* "joy"-"joy is forever." Very similar is *Titilola*-*tití* + *ola* "wealth"-"wealth is forever." Dim: *Titi*.

Titus c? Roman praenomen, most famously borne by the Emperor *Titus-Titus Flavius Vespasianus* (39-81 CE). The name also occurs in the New Testament. The origin is very obscure. It may possibly be related to L: *titulus* "title" or *titio* "fire-brand." 16th C. Bearers: *Titus Oates* (1649-1705), the English clergyman who fabricated the "Popish Plot" conspiracy

in 1678; Titus Groan, central character of Mervyn Peake's Gormenghast series (1946-59).

Tizeta Y Ethiopian name. Amharic: tzta "memory."

Tlachtga Y An Irish Druidess-probably once a Goddess. Tlachtga is the daughter of Mogh Ruith and gave her name to Tlachtga Hill (now called Ward Hill), a hub of Samhain rituals in pre-Christian times.

Tlalli 2 Mexican name. Nahuatl: tlalli "earth."

Tletl c? Mexican name. Nahuatl: tletl "fire."

Toby c? English form of Tobias, the Greek form of Heb: Tobiah-"Yahweh is good." Used from the twelfth century. Although Tobias was used in medieval documents, Toby was the normal form of the name until the Reformation, when Tobias became the norm and Toby began to be thought of as its diminutive. Get, Scand: Tobias. Bearers: Tobias Smollett (1721-71), the Scottish writer; Sir Toby Belch, a character in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

Todd c~ English surname. ME: tod/todde "fox." 17th C. Var: Tod. "Tod" is still used to mean "fox" in parts of the North of England and Scotland, but also means "death" in German. Bearers: Todd Flanders, a character in the American animated series The Simpsons (1989-).

Toivo c Finnish name-toivo "hope" and "trust."

Tokori 2 c~ Hopi: tokori "screech owl."

Tolganai Y Kazakh name-tolgan "full" + ai "moon."

Toliman cc Traditional name of Alpha Centauri in the constellation Centaurus, also known as Rigil Kentaurus. Although it appears to be a single star, it is in fact a binary. Astronomers believe there may be planets around both capable of sustaining life. The etymology is very uncertain; it may be Ar: zulman, plural of zalam "ostrich."

Tom cc Short form of THOMAS, common since the Middle Ages-its popularity attested by the old expression, "every Tom, Dick, and Harry." Like many of the most popular names of the Middle Ages, it passed into the English language. "Tom fool"-often written "tom-fool"-dates to the fourteenth century; "tomboy" from the late sixteenth; "tom-cat" from the eighteenth. In Shakespeare's King Lear, Edgar takes the pseudonym Tom o' Bedlam. Folk-tales about Tom Thumb dates from the sixteenth century, when the name was first recorded by Reginald Scot in The Discoverie of Witchcraft (1584). Bearers: Tom Jones (b. 1940), the Welsh singer; Thomas "Tom" Hanks (b. 1956) and Thomas "Tom" Cruise (b. 1962), American actors; Tom Jones, hero of Henry Fielding's The History of Tom Jones, A Foundling (1749); Tom Bombadil, a character with immense magical powers in Tolkiens The Lord of the Rings; Tom Marvolo Riddle, the real name of Lord Voldemort in the Harry Potter series.

Tomiko Y Japanese name-tomi "riches," "wealth," and "fortune" + ko "child."

Tomman c~ Old Irish name, diminutive of Tomma or Tuama, a name of uncertain meaning. It appears to be from 01: tomm "hillock"-used of burial mounds (the Scots Gaelic tuama even means "tomb" and "grave"). There are saints of both names.

Tomoko Y Japanese name-tomo "friend" + ko "child."

Tomyris Y The queen who killed Cyrus the Great. She ruled a nomadic tribe called the Massagetae. The Persians called her Tahm-Rayis, which was Hellenized as Tomyris, Tamyris, Tamiris, and THAMYRIS. The etymology is very uncertain-we don't even know what language the Massagetae spoke. It may possibly be cognate with the Turkic Timur (see Tamerlane).

Tonans o~ Epithet of Jupiter. L: tonans "thundering" < tonos "to thunder."

Tony c~ Long the established short form of ANTHONY, Tony has been used independently since the nineteenth century. Bearers: Anthony "Tony" Benn (b. 1925), a British politician; Anthony "Tony" Blair (b. 1953),

former British Prime Minister; Anthony "Tony" Lumpkin, a character in Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773).

Topaz Y The birthstone for November, and Sagittarius or Taurus, Topaz is prized for its golden yellow color-although it can come in other colors too, most notably pink or pale aqua. It is valued for its healing and energizing properties, and is associated with love and good luck-a stone of optimism and happiness. OF: topaze < L: topazus < Gr: topazos < San: tapas "heat" and "fire." In Antiquity, it was used quite freely for a number of precious stones, particularly the yellow sapphire. Early 20th C. Bearers: Topaz Mortmain, a character in Dodie Smith's *I Capture the Castle* (1949).

Topsy 2 There is very little evidence for the use of Topsy as a name prior to Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1851), in which Topsy featured. Attempts to derive the name from "topsail," therefore, seem forced. In all likelihood, Beecher Stowe invented the name, and given the character's "upside-down" notion regarding how she thought she came into being (upside-down as far as Beecher Stowe was concerned, anyway), it seems more likely that she took the name from the English "topsy-turvy," which has been in existence since the early sixteenth century. Topsy has since entered the English language to mean anything that has come into existence all by itself, just as the character believed she had; after being asked, patronizingly, "Have you ever heard anything about God, Topsy? Do you know who made you?" "The little girl sagely replied, "Nobody, as I knows on ... I 'spect I growl. Don't think nobody never made me." Topsy has since featured again in Jean and Gareth Adamsons *Topsy and Tim* children's books (1960-).

Torcan cc Old Irish name-torcc "boar" + dim. suffix -an. Var: Torccan.

Toroa Y c~ Maori: toroa "albatross" < toro "to stretch" and "to extend"-a reference, perhaps, to the albatross's huge wing-span.

Torquatus cc Latin: torquatus "adorned with a necklace" < torquis "torque." Used as a cognomen, especially by the gens Manlia and gens Junia. It: Torquato-as borne by the Italian poet Torquato Tasso (1544-95).

Torque c? A solid necklet made of twisted metal, most associated with Celts, but worn by others, including Scythians, Persians, and Vikings. L: torquis "torque" < torqueo "to twist." "The torques of the Celts were often exquisitely crafted; the most prized were gold, but other metals were used, particularly bronze. Var: Torc. Late 20th C.

Torquil c' Anglicized form of Scots Gaelic Torcall < ON: Thorketil-THOR + ketill "cauldron." Thorketil died out before the end of the Middle Ages, but Torquil continued in use among some Scottish families. Revived in the late 19th C. Var: Torquhil; Thorketill, Thorkill (hist).

Toru a' Japanese name-torn "lead"; toru "clear" and "transparent."

Toshiko Y Japanese name-toshi "nimble" and "intelligent"; "graceful; or "fruit" + ko "child."

Tourmaline Y e A type of crystal, usually black with a glassy luster, but also found in blue, red, and green. Fr: tourmaline < Sinhalese: toramalli-said to mean "cornelian." Considered a very purifying and protective crystal, believed to encourage positive thinking and self-image. Late 20th C.

Towy c~ 2 A river in west Wales, the Anglicized form of Welsh Tywi. The etymology is unclear, but it may be cognate with TEIFI. Late 19th C.

Toya 2 Hispanic pet-form of names containing -to- such as Victoria and Antonia. 20th C. Var: Toyah. Bearers: Toyah Wilcox (b. 1958), the English singer and actress.

Tracy y cc English surname, from Tracy-Bocage or Tracysur-Mer in Calvados, Normandy. It is usually derived from Latin Thrax "a Thracian." "This was used as a Roman cognomen. Another possibility is that it derived from Thrascias, the name of the obscure God of the "north-by-a-thirdnorthwest" wind. Or it may be Celtic, a fairly obvious option for Tracy-sur-Mer is CC: *trfgi- "beach" and "low tide." Used from the seventeenth century, at first for boys. Most use as a girl's name post-dates the film The Philadelphia Story (1940), in which Tracy Lord is the main

character. Sometimes treated as a short form of TERESA. Var: Tracey, Traci, Tracie.

Tranquil e Y Latin: tranquillus "quiet," "calm." "Tranquil" appeared in English only in the early seventeenth century. It was used at first to mean "free from agitation" as well as its usual meanings today of "calm," "serene," "peaceful," and "placid." Late 19th C.

Tranquility 2 Latin: tranquillitas "quietness," "stillness," "calm," and "tranquility," a word used in English since the fourteenth century; one of its earliest occurrences in literature is in the work of Geoffrey Chaucer. Late 20th C.

Travis c? Old French: travers "the act of passing a boundary"-such as a gate, bridge, or ferry.'his became the name of a tax paid by non-local merchants to cross bridges or other boundaries with merchandise, and Travis originated metonymically as the name of someone who collected such a tax. 17th C. Bearers: Travis, a character in the British sciencefiction series Blake's 7 (1978-81).Travis is also the name of a Scottish rock band.

Treasure 2 cc Old French: tresor < L: thesaurus < Gr: thesauros "treasury." Its basic and original meaning in English is "wealth" and "riches," specifically in the form of stored gold, silver, and jewels, but it has been used figuratively of anything or anyone precious since the thirteenth century, and as a term of endearment since the early twentieth century. 'The surname comes from the same source, being used metonymically to mean "treasurer." Tresor, the Modern French form, is also found as a given name in the ESW. 18th C.

Trent c~ 2 The name of more than one river, but principally one which flows through Staffordshire and the Midlands, joining the Ouse at the Humber Estuary. Its name in the Roman period was probably the same as that now called the Arun in Hampshire. Unfortunately, a record of the nominative form doesn't survive and therefore both *Trisanto and *Trisantonata have been suggested. CC: *tri- "thrice" (used as an intensifying prefix) + *sentu- "path." It has been suggested that rivers so named were used for transport-certainly the Trent has been much used as such in more recent times, playing an important part in the industry of the Midlands in

the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Trisantona was probably regarded as a Goddess too. The surname Trent derives from the rivers. 18th C.

Trenton c? There is a rare surname Trenton of uncertain origin; some may be late adoptions of the name of the New Jersey city, founded in the early eighteenth century and named after the Pennsylvanian merchant William Trent (c. 1653-1724). 19th C.

Trevor Anglicized form of Welsh Trefor < tref "town" and "homestead" + mawr "great" or mor "sea." More than one place in Wales bears the name, and they gave rise to the surname Trevor. Late 16th C. Bearers: Trevor Hill, first Viscount Hillsborough (1693-1742), an Anglo-Irish statesman, who was named after his mother, Anne Trevor.

Trey cc Trey originated as a nickname for those with the Roman numeral III attached to their names. L: tres "three," which is actually pronounced "trays"-presumably the pronunciation as a nickname has been influenced by the very similar-looking French tres "very," which is pronounced "tray." 20th C.

Trinity ? Latin: trinitas "the number three." It appears in English in the early fourteenth century with specific reference to the Christian notion of "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," but has been used of anything taking a triple or three-fold form since the fifteenth century. Three is one of the most significant of numbers. A prime number, its symbolism runs deep. Many spiritual traditions feature the number three, from the Hindu Trimurti to the Christian Holy Trinity. In Paganism, the Triple Goddess-representing the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone-is central to the beliefs of many Pagans, and there is considerable evidence for the antiquity of the reverence and worship of a Triple Goddess in ancient times, especially amongst the Celts. Three is particularly important in Druidry; there are the three realms of Land, Sea, and Sky, and the three circles of existence. In numerology, three signifies the synthesis of mind, body, and spirit. Perhaps its association with the Divine and magic on so many levels is responsible for the general and widespread belief that three is a lucky number. 16th C. Bearers: Trinity, a principal character in the American Matrix film trilogy (1999-2003)-responsible for much of Trinity's use since the new millennium.

Triptolemus c' A Greek God of agriculture. According to the myth, he was taught agriculture by Demeter as a gift for his family's hospitality when she was searching the Earth for Persephone in the guise of an old woman. He featured in the Eleusinian Mysteries. Gr: tri- "three" or "thrice" + polemos "fighting," "war," and "battle." 19th C.

Triquetra ? The name of the three-cornered symbol found on Pagan runestones. It also featured in early medieval Celtic

art, and is often used by modern Pagans to symbolize the Triple Goddess. It has been made well known in recent years through its use in the American television drama *Charmed* (1998-2006).

Triskele Y The name of the triple-spiral symbol. Gr: tri "three" + skelos "leg." It is also used of the three-leg symbol of the Isle of Man. The symbol occurs across the ancient world. To Druids, it symbolizes the three realms of Land, Sea, and Sky, while Witches use it to symbolize the Triple Goddess, and Christians, the Trinity. Var: Triskelion.

Tristan c? Anglicized form of *Trystan*, the name of an important figure in Welsh mythology. He is the hero of the tale of *Trystan and Iseult*, the earliest versions of which date from the twelfth century. His name—which also occurs as *Drystan* in Welsh—derives from CC: **trusto-* "noise" and "cry." This is also behind the Pictish name *Drest/Drust*, borne by a number of Pictish kings. A form cognate to *Tristan-Drostan* is borne by a seventh-century Pictish saint, and *Drustanus* is found on a fifth-century gravestone in Cornwall. The spelling *Tris-* is often said to have been influenced by the French *triste* "sad," but in the same period as the story was emerging, there are two other words just as likely to be the source—ME: *trist* "hope" and "confidence," and *TRYST*. Given the nature of the tale of *Tristan and Iseult*, the latter seems quite likely. Used since at least the twelfth century, mostly in the form *Tristram* until the twentieth century; since then, *Tristan* has become the preferred form. Var: *Tristen*, *Tristian*, *Tristin*, *Triston* (mod). Dim: *Tris*, *STAN*. Fem: *Trista* (mod). Bearers: *Tristan Farnon*, a character in James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* series (1970-95); *Tristan Ludlow*, a principal character in Jim Harrison's *Legends of the Fall* (1979). *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* (1759) is a novel by Laurence Sterne.

Tristitia 2 Latin: tristitia "sadness," "grief," and "melancholy." 17th C.

Trithemius e The surname of a famous alchemist and polymath, Johannes Trithemius (1462-1516). It derives from Tritenheim in Germany, where he was born, but was shaped to resemble Gr: tri- "three" and "thrice" + themis "law" and "right."

Tritogenia Y Epithet of Athene. Gr: tritos "thrice" or "third" + gignomai "to be born"-hence "thrice-born" or "third-born." The name puzzled the Ancient Greeks, who came up with all kinds of reasons for how she had acquired it, from the fairly mundane explanation that it referred to the fact she was Zeus's third-born child after Apollo and Artemis, or that she was born on the third day of the month, to the far more interesting notion that she represents Nature, born thrice during a year-representing the three seasons of the Greeks. What it most likely represents is a vestige in Greek religion of a Triple Goddess. Var: Trito.

Triton c~ A Greek God, the son of Poseidon. He is usually portrayed as a merman-half-man, half-fish. Gr: tritos "third." 18th C.

Troilus e A Trojan hero, best known today from Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida, based on Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde (1380s). Troilus is a diminutive of Gr: TrOIos "of Troy" and "Trojan"-i.e. "little Trojan," although some like to interpret it as a blend of Troy with Ilus, the name of the legendary founder of Troy, from which Homer's Iliad also derives. 15th C.

Troth Y As a word, "troth" is all but obsolete, confined to poetry and the 1662 version of the Anglican Solemnization of Matrimony. It means "faithfulness," "good faith," "loyalty," and "honesty." 16th C.

Troy c? Troy's original use as a given name at the end of the seventeenth century was the adoption of the surname. This derives from Troyes in France. The town's name in the Roman period was Tricassium, taken from the name of the local tribe, the Tricasses < CC: *tri- "thrice" + *kasso "twisted" or "curly." Troy is best known as the name of the ancient city of Troy, site of the Trojan War. Its Hittite name was Truwisa, but the

meaning is unknown. Much of Troy's usage in the latter twentieth century stems from the celebrity of the American actor Troy Donahue (1936-2001).

Trudy ? Pet-form of GERTRUDE, used independently since the late nineteenth century. Var: Trudi, Trudie.

True Y c~ True was first bestowed as a name by the Puritans in the sixteenth century-mostly, but not exclusively, upon girls. As well as meaning "truthful" and "trusty," it also carries meanings such as "steadfast" and "loyal." It had dwindled away almost to nothing by the end of the nineteenth century, but returned again in the late twentieth century. OE: treowe "true." Var: Trew, Trewe, Tru (hist).

Truly y Old English: treowlice "truly." First used as a given name in the early nineteenth century. The 1968 film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (based on a 1964 children's book by Ian Fleming) featured the character Truly Scrumptious and was responsible for a renewal in the use of Truly in the latter twentieth century.

Truman c~ English surname. OE: treowe "true" and "steadfast" + mann "man." Bearers: Truman Capote (1924-84), the American author and filmmaker.

Truth Y Old English: triew6 "truth." Cognate with ON: tryggo and OG: triuwida. 16th C.

Tryphena y Greek: truphe "dainty." A woman called Tryphena features in the New Testament with her sister Tryphosa, which is essentially a variant. 16th C. By the nineteenth century, the name was mostly in use among the Romani, sometimes in the uniquely Romani form Truffeni. Var: Triphena, Tryphaena, Tryphenia.

Tryst 2 A word redolent of medieval romances, when damsels arranged secret meetings with their knights in shining armor-frequently with one thing in mind. In the old folk-song "Domeana," the hero overhears plans for such a tryst-and uses it to his advantage. The word developed from ME: trist "confidence," "confident expectation," and "hope." Somehow this seems to

have come to be used for an appointed station in hunting-and thus a meeting place. 20th C.

Trystine Y An older name for Ametrine. The etymology isn't clear, but it may have acquired the name because of its banding, which ideally consists of three parts amethyst and three parts citrine. Gr: tris "thrice." Early 20th C.

Trystion c~ The name of a river in Wales, which flows into the Dee. It probably derives from the same source as TRISTAN-CC: *trusto- "noise" and "cry"; whether it is connected with Trystan at a deeper level is impossible to say.

Tsanzi Y cc Shona: tsanzi "clever."

Tsering Y c~ Tibetan name-tshe "life" + ring "long," and "extensive."

Tsigih y cc Cherokee: tsigili "horned owl."

Tsila 2 Cherokee: tsila "flower."

Tsinde Y Shona: tsinde "plaited grass bracelet."

Tsitsi y Shona: tsitsi "compassion" and "empathy."

Tsukiko 2 Japanese name-tsuki "moon" + ko "child."

Tsula Y Cherokee: tsula "fox."

Tuamnait Y Old Irish girl's name-essentially the feminine form of TOMMAN. Var: Tomnat.

Tuathal c? Traditional Irish name, which survived in Anglicized forms such as Toal and Tully until the nineteenth century; Tuathal was revived in the twentieth. 01: tuath "people" + fal "rule." Tuathal is the source of the Irish surname O'Toole.

Tuathla 2 Old Irish: tuath "people" and "tribe" + flaith "sovereignty" and "ruler." The name of an eighth-century queen of Leinster. Revived in the

twentieth century, along with a semi-Anglicized form Tuala. Var: Tuathflaith, Tuathlaith.

Tucker c~ English surname. OE: tucian "to torment"; later it came to mean "to tuck"-i.e. to finish cloth off after weaving. 18th C.

Tudor cc Anglicized form of Welsh Tudur, famous as the surname of the Royal House which ruled England and Wales between 1485 and 1603. CC: *towtf "people" and "tribe" (this became tut in Middle Welsh and also acquired the meaning "country") + *r-g- "king." It is found in Gaul in the Roman period as Teutorix, and is cognate with THEODORIC. Var: Tewdrig (hist); Tewdwr, Tudri.

Tuesday Y The Romans named Tuesday after Marshence Fr: mardi and W: dydd Mawrth, which preserve the name of the Roman God.'The Anglo-Saxons equated Mars with Tiw (see Tyr) and named it Tiwesd&g. In the rhyme, "Tuesday's child is full of grace"-which doesn't equate all that well with a day named after a God of war; it was probably chosen simply because it rhymes with Monday's "face." 18th C. Bearers: Tuesday Weld (b. 1943) and Tuesday Knight (b. 1969), both American actresses.

Tuilelaith Y Irish Gaelic name, borne by more than one early saint. Like so many, these may well represent Goddesses; one of them has a feast day on January 6. In recent years, it has sometimes been rendered in English with Tal

lulah, but Twilleliah was sometimes used as an Anglicization in the past. Middle Irish: taile "wages" and "substance" or 01: tuile "flood" + flaith "sovereignty" and "ruler." Revived late 20th C. Var: Tailefhlaith.

Tula ? Sanskrit: tula "likeness" as well as "balance" and "scales."The Sanskrit name for Libra.

Tulasi y In Indian mythology, Tulasi (also called TULSI) is the Goddess of tulsi (holy basil).

Tiilay ? A Turkish name-tul "tulle" + ay "moon."

Tuli y Swahili: tuli "still," "quiet," "silent," and "reserved."

Tulip 2 Tulips are much loved for their goblet-like blooms in luscious and glowing colors; their appearance is a sure sign that winter has lost its grip and spring is not far away. The tulip was introduced into Europe from Turkey in the sixteenth century. Its older names were tulipa and tulipan < Turk: tulband or tuliband < Persian: dulband "turban." The flower was so-named because it was thought to resemble a turban. It has a number of meanings in the language of flowers, including love and fame. Red tulips in particular are said to mean "believe me" and to be a declaration of love. 19th C.

Tulle Y The name given to a fine net or gauzy material, originally made of silk, formerly much used in dressmaking, and still often employed for wedding dresses and veils. It takes its name from Tulle in France, where it was first made in the early nineteenth century. The town is thought to have acquired its name from L: Tutela "watching," "care," and "protection." Originally the name of a guardian spirit, Tutela was later regarded as a Goddess. Her name is linked at more than one site in France with Vesunna- and perhaps this was also true at Tulle. 20th C.

Tullia Y Feminine form of Tullius, a Roman cognomen born by one of the legendary kings of Rome as well as the orator Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BCE). It: Tullio o.

Tulsi Y cc Indian name. Often called holy basil in English, tulsi is regarded as the second most sacred plant after the lotus in Hinduism. Its stems are cut into beads for rosaries. Medicinally it has many uses; the oil is antibiotic and an insect repellent, while it is used internally for various complaints, including feverish illness-especially in children. In magic, it is used to banish negativity; in India it is frequently grown in special pots near the doors of people's houses.

Tung cc Turkish name-tunf "bronze."

Tiinde ? Hungarian name. Hun: tunder "elf," "pixie," and "fairy." It is thought to have been invented by the Hungarian poet Mihaly Vorosmarty in 1830.

Turai Y Hausa name, bestowed on a girl born on a Tuesday. It is also the Hausa word for Great Britain and Europe.

Turan Y c~ The Etruscan Goddess of love. Turan is also a Turkish male name meaning "Turanian," i.e. "from the Land of Tur"-a name applied to central Asia; the Persians called it Turan. Tur is a hero who features in Ferdowsi of Tus's tenth-century epic Shahnameh; it means "net" and "save all" in Persian.

Turia Y Turia-or Curia (it isn't known for certain what she was called)-was a typical "model Roman wife," putting herself last and everyone else first, with husband and state firmly at the top. Her name is the feminine form of her father's gens; the gens Turia may derive from L: turio "tendril," "young branch," and "shoot (of a plant)," while the gens Curia probably comes from cura "care," "attention," and "diligence." 20th C.

Turlough c~ Anglicized form of Old Irish Toirdhealbhach.'The etymology isn't clear; it may be tair "gain" or toir "pursuit" + dilb "legacy." It was popular in Medieval Ireland, but like all Irish names, suffered drastically between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, when it tended to be rendered into English as Terence.'The Scots Gaelic equivalent Tearlach used Charles. Var: Tairdelbach,Tarlach.

Turquoise Y c~ The name of the precious opaque bluegreen stone. Fr: turquoise "Turkish" < pierre turquoise "Turkish stone."The stone actually originated in Persia. The word dates to the late fourteenth century in English usage. In the nineteenth century, "turquoise" also came to be used as a color. The stone is valued for its healing properties and ability to act as a balm for the spirit and the soul, but its main use has historically been for protection; amulets of turquoise have been made since ancient times. It is also used for purification and is good for banishing negativity. It is one of the stones associated with Sagittarius. Late 19th C.

Tuta Y A word with meanings in a number of languages. In Quechua and some related tongues, it means "night," while in Latin it means "protected" and "safe." In Italian, it means "all." In Maltese, it means "blackberry."

Tutankhamun c~ Although Tutankhamun's reign as Pharaoh of Egypt in the fourteenth century BCE was brief, he is probably the most famous of the Pharaohs, due to the discovery of his tomb in 1922 by Howard Carter. Egyptian: twt "statue" and "image" + anx "living" + AMUN. Popularly now known as King Tut, his birth name was Tutankhaten-twt "statue" and "image" + anx "living" + ATEN. His father was the Pharaoh Akhenaten, who introduced the monotheistic cult of Aten to Egypt; it is popularly believed that it was Tutankhamun who reversed this, reinstating polytheism and changing his name to emphasis the restoration of the old faith.

Tuuli ? Finnish name-tuuli "wind," "spirits," and "mood." Dim: Tuulikki.

Tuyet Y Vietnamese name-tuyet "snow."

Twila Y Twila was first used in America in the late nineteenth century. Its origins are not certain; the most plausible suggestion is that it evolved from ETOILE, which had came into use slightly before Twila. The spelling may have been influenced by TWILIGHT-or it could have been coined straight from "twilight" itself. Although its pronunciation is very similar to Tuathla, it is very unlikely this obscure Irish name is Twfla's actual source. Var: Twyla.

Twilight 2 c~ Twilight-the soft, diffused half-light of dawn and dusk-is a time of transition, and like all times of transition, it is a time when the veil between the worlds is thin, a time when fairies and other otherworldly beings are most likely to be abroad, dancing in the twilight mists. ME: twi-"two" (i.e. "half") + LIGHT. 20th C. Dim: TWILA.

Tybalt c3' A character in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. A late medieval form ofTHEOBALD. Late 19th C.

Tyche y Greek: tukhe "fortune" and "fate."Me personification of good fortune, and the Greek equivalent of Fortuna. 20th C.

Tychicus o~ Biblical name. Greek tukhe "fortune" and "fate." 17th C.

Tycho c? Latin form of Greek Tychon-an epithet of Hermes. Gr: tukhe "fortune," "fate." St. Tychon was a fifthcentury anti-Pagan Cyprian

"dedicated" to stamping out the worship of Aphrodite on Cyprus. 18th C. Bearers: Tycho Brahe (1546-1601), the Danish astronomer.

Tydfil 2 Another of Brychan Brycheiniog's saintly daughters. Tydfil gives her name to the town of Merthyr Tydfil. MW: tut "people" and "country" + mael "noble" or mil "small animal." 19th C. Var: Tudful, Tudfyl.

Tyler a' English surname. ME: tyelere "tiler"-i.e. someone who made tiles or laid tiles, on roofs and floors; many a medieval cathedral still boasts some of its original glazed terracotta floor tiles laid by such craftsmen. 18th C. Dim: Ty. Var: Tylor.

Tyne c~ Y The name of a river in the North West of England. In Romans times, it was known as the Tinea and the Tinoa. It may derive from CC: *ti-ni- "to melt"-perhaps referring to the affects of snow-melt on flow-or be connected with DON. The surname Tyne derives from the river. 18th C.

TTr ' Y A Norse God. Tiw is his Saxon name-and he gave his name to Tuesday. A God of war, heroism, and justice. PIE: *deyw-o-. 20th C. TTr is a "Viking/metal/foll" band from the Faroe Islands.

Tyrell cc English surname. OF: tirer "to draw" or "to pull"-tirel may have carried the sense "obstinate." Sometimes it may be from THOROLD; certainly the best-known bearer, Walter Tyrell (c. 1065-aft. 1100)-who "accidentally"

killed King William II-is called Walter Turolde in some sources. 17th C. Var: Tirel, Tirell, Terrell, Tyrrell.

Tyrian 5 Y Latin: Tyrianus "of Tyre"-referring to the Phoenician city. Tyre was well known for the purple dye manufactured there from murex shells. It was frequently called Tyrian purple, and was originally used for the stripes on the togas of Roman senators. Later, it was reserved for the use of emperors alone, and became known as imperial purple. As a result, "Tyrian" is sometimes used to mean "purple." The name of the city derives from a Semitic word meaning "rock." Devotees of TTr are also sometimes called Tyrians. Early 20th C. The variant Tirian is the name of the main character in The Last Battle, part of C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia.

Tyro Y A minor figure in Greek mythology; she bore a set of twins to Poseidon. Gr: turos "cheese."

Tyrone c? Anglicized form of Irish Gaelic Tir Eoghain "EOGHAN's land," a county of Northern Ireland. 18th C. Dim: Ty. Bearers: (William Grattan) Tyrone Power (1795-1841), the Irish-born British actor; Tyrone Power, Sr. (1869-1931), the Anglo-American actor (grandson of the previous); Tyrone Power, Jr. (1914-58), the American actor, son of Tyrone Powers Sr.

Tyson c? English surname. OF: tison "firebrand." 17th C.

Ubani 5' ? Swahili: ubani "incense"; Zulu: ubani "lightning," "who," "somebody," and "person of importance."

Ubukeya Y Gi Zulu: ubukeka "she (or he) is admirable" and "she (or he) is beautiful."

Uchtred a' Old English: uht "dawn" + reed "counsel." It never quite died out, although later use may be surname related. W: Uchdryd-a character in Arthurian Romance. Var: Ughtred; Oughtred, Utred (hist).

Udom G" Thai name-udom "uppermost," "highest," "best," and "superb."

Ugne y Lithuanian name-ugnis "fire," "light," and "glimmer."

Uhuru a' Y Swahili: uhuru "liberty," "freedom," and "independence." It is the source of Uhura, coined as the surname of the character of Lieutenant Nyota Uhura in the American science-fiction series Star Trek (1966-69).

Uilleac 5' Irish Gaelic name; either a pet-form of Uilliam-the Irish Gaelic form of WILLIAM-or from the Norse Hugleikr (ON: hugr "heart" + leikr "play" or "sport"). It occurs as Hygelac in the Anglo-Saxon epic Beowulf as the

name of a king of the Geats. Sometimes rendered into English by Ulysses, and Anglicized as Ulick. Var: Uilleag.

Uisdean c? Scots Gaelic name from the Norse EysteinnON: ei "forever" + steinn "stone." It used to be rendered in English with Hugh.

Ujahele e 2 Zulu: ujahele "he or she hurried."

Ular c Malay: ular "snake."

Ulex e In Roman times, ulex was a "shrub resembling rosemary." It is now used as the botanical name for gorse. Late 19th C.

Ulf cc Now regarded as a purely Danish name, Ulf was used in Britain in the Middle Ages, having evolved (like the Danish) from ON: Ulfr-"wolf." Var: Ulph.

Ullr e The Norse God of archery, deriving from the same root as Gothic: wulj\$us "glory" and ME: wulder "glory" and "honor" < OE: wuldor. In the Poetic Edda, Ullr is said to live in Ydalir "yew dales," though this connection may well have arisen because it would seem logical to the Norse that a God of archery would dwell in such a place, as their bows were usually made of yew. He is also described as the "ski-runner" and is often depicted carrying his bow and wearing skis. In the twelfth-century Gesta Danorum by the Danish historian Saxo Grammaticus, Ullr (Latinized as Ollerus) is portrayed as a shrewd magician who can travel across the sea on a bone engraved with dire spells.

Ulma Y Ulma's use dates to the nineteenth century, but its origins are unclear. It is the Italian and Latin name for the German city of Ulm, which derives from CC: *elm-z "elm," and it may have been first used as a given name with the city in mind. Alternatively, it may have been coined from L: ulmus "elm." Perhaps the most likely option is that it is simply a variant of ALMA and/or ELMA. In Swedish, a/ma means "glow" or "smolder."

Ulrica Y Scandinavian and German feminine of Ulric, from the Old Norse Ulfric. ON: ufr "wolf" + rikr "mighty" and "powerful"-cognate with WULFRIC. 16th C. Var: Ulrika, Ulrike. Dim: Ulla.

Ulva 2 A Scottish Island off the west coast of Mull.'The Gaelic form of the name is Ulbha, but the etymology is uncertain.'The most likely option is that it is a corruption of ON: u/fr "wolf" or ULLR + ey "island." Another option is the Gaelic ullamh dha "ready for"-with "occupation" understood. Folk-etymology derives it from Gaelic ullamh-ath "a ready ford," referring to the tidal stretch between Ulvan and Gometra, or the Sound of Ulva, over which cattle have sometimes been swum. Late 19th C.

Ulvi a' Turkish name-ulvi "lofty," "sublime," and "exalted."

Ulysses cc Latin form of ODYSSEUS. Mostly used in Ireland to render Uilleac into English. 16th C. Bearers: Ulysses S. Grant (1822-85), US

President. Ulysses (1918-20) is one of James Joyce's best-known novels.
Var: Mixes.

Uma 2 A name applied to more than one Hindu Goddess. Principally it is used for Parvati. But it is also used of the Kumari aged six. Both are aspects of Durga. The etymology is uncertain. Traditionally, it is derived from San: u- signifying "inexhaustible" + ma "no," referring to the tapasya (an act of ritual austerity) Parvati embarked upon in order to be reunited with Shiva. In Aymara, uma means "water." Bearers: Uma rlhurman (b. 1970), the actress, who was apparently named after the Tibetan Buddhist concept dbuma chenpo, meaning "great middle way." Robert Louis Stevenson used the name in his short story "The Beach of Falesa" (1892).

Umber c~ 2 The name of a natural brown clay pigment used since prehistoric times. When heated, the color is intensified and is known as "burnt umber." L: umbra "shadow" and "shade."

Umbra ? Latin: umbra "shadow" and "shade." In Roman times, it was used to refer to the "shades" of the dead. As a modern astronomical term, it refers to the shadow cast by a celestial body, principally the moon. 20th C.

Ume 2 Japanese name-ume "plum" and "plum blossom." Umeko-ume + ko "child."

Umoya y e Ndebele, Zulu and Xhosa: umoya "air," "wind," "spirit," and "soul."

Umthakathi y c~ Zulu and Ndebele: umthakathi "Witch."

Una Y Una has two distinct origins. The first is Latin una "(female) one." This was used by Spenser in *The Faerie Queene* and has been used in the ESW since the seventeenth century. The second Una is Irish. The Irish Gaelic form Una is identical to the modern word for "famine," but the Old Irish name Una is generally thought to have derived from O1: uan "lamb." This connection has led to it sometimes being rendered into English as Agnes, as well as Winnie and Juno. It features more than once in Irish mythology; one Una was a fairy queen, the wife of Finnbarr, while another was a wife of Finn McCool. Var: Oona, Oonagh.

Undeg y Welsh: un "one" + teg "fair" or "beautiful." 20th C.

Undine 2 The name given to water spirits by Paracelsus in the sixteenth century, after which they entered Germanic folklore as a type of water nymph or sprite. Paracelsus coined the word from L: unda "wave."

Friedrich de la Motte Fouque's novel Undine (1812), which was translated into English, made undines familiar to all in the nineteenth century, after which they featured in numerous pieces of art, literature, and music. 19th C. Var: Undina, Ondine.

Unega Y Cherokee: unega "white."

Ungoed 2 Welsh surname-un "one" + coed "a wood." 20th C.

Unityy The word "unity" derives from L: unitas "oneness." 16th C. Bearers: Unity Valkyrie Freeman-Mitford (1914- 48), one of the Mitford sisters, a notorious supporter of the Nazi Party and friend of Adolf Hitler.

Unole Y e Cherokee: unole "air."

Ura Y The Ogham name for heather, from the Old Irish and cognate with Sc Ga: ur "heather." Its ultimate source may be CC: *ura / ugra- "earth" or uro- "green."

Urai y 'Mai name-urai "gold."

Urania 2 cc The Muse of Astronomy. Gr: ouranos "sky." 17th C.

Uranus Latin form of Greek Ouranos "sky." Consort of Ge and father of the Titans, the Greeks believed that Uranus was one of the most primordial of all Gods. Later, however, he acquired parents-Cicero said they were Aether and Hemera, while the Orphic hymns proclaim his mother to be Nyx.

Eventually, at the behest of Ge, he was castrated by his son Cronos, who became king of the Gods in his place. In 1781, his name was given to the seventh planet in the solar system by William Herschel, its discoverer. 19th C.

Urban a' Latin: urbanus "of the city," "refined," and "urbane." Used as a cognomen in Roman times, Urbanus came to be the name of a number of popes and saints. Although its direct opposite is the name Pagan, the original meaning of urbanus never had any religious connotations. 13th C.

Ure 5 Y The name of a river in Yorkshire, known as Jor to the Vikings, from its Old English name Earp. This may be OE: earp "swarthy," but is more likely to be an Anglo-Saxon reworking of its Celtic name Isura- probably cognate with Isara, the name in Roman times of the River Isere in France.

Uriah c? Biblical name. Heb: "light of Yahweh." The most famous Uriah in the Bible is Uriah the Hittite, with Uriah probably being used to render the Hittite Ariya or Uriya into Hebrew. Ariya probably derives from Hittite: ara "good," or "friend," or ariya "consult an oracle." Uriya may derive from Hittite: ur "to burn." It has been badly damaged by Charles Dickens, who used it in David Copperfield (1850) for one of literature's most obnoxious characters-Uriah Heep. 16th C. Var: Urias.

Urian c? Anglicized form of the Welsh Urien-L: urbs "city" + CC: *geno- "born." The sixth-century Urien, King of

Rheged, became a legendary figure in Wales and found his way into the Arthurian Romances, where he was depicted as the king of the mythical land of Gore and a brother-in-law of King Arthur. By the end of the eighteenth century, the name was largely confined to the English Marches. Revived 19th C.

Uriel c~ The name of one of the four archangels (the others being Gabriel, Michael and Raphael). Heb: "light of (a) God." 16th C. Var: AURIEL, ORIEL. A related Modern Hebrew name is Uri-"light." Bearers: Uri Geller (b.1946), the Israeli-born illusionist.

Urith Y A Devonshire name. St. Urith is an obscure West Country saint of seventh-century date. She was supposedly beheaded by female haymakers at the instigation of her jealous stepmother (Cinderella's stepmother pales in comparison). A spring miraculously appeared where she fell. Her name was Latinized as Hierytha, being clearly linked by medieval hagiographers to

Gr: hiero6 "to consecrate." "The true origin probably lies with Urith's Welsh form IWERYDD, and in all likelihood, Urith is really the Brythonic equivalent of ERIU or Eriu herself, brought to Britain by Pagan Irish settlers in the sub-Roman period. 16th C. Var: Erith.

Ursa 2 Latin: ursa "she-bear." Ursa Major-the "Great Bear"-is one of the most recognizable constellations of the night sky. In classical mythology, it is said to represent Callisto, turned into a bear by Zeus, who later placed her in the stars. Ursa Minor-"the Little Bear"-represents her son Arcas. The most prominent stars of Ursa Major are often called "the Plough" or "the Big Dipper." To the ancient Druids, however, it was the chariot of King Arthur-who, intriguingly, also has strong links with bears. 18th C.

Ursula ? Latin: ursula "little she-bear." St. Ursula is responsible for the name's popularity in medieval times (another shadowy early saint, removed from the official calendar in 1969). Ursula may well be a Pagan Goddess Christianized-a likely candidate is Artemis, whose association with bears is well known; young girls appointed as her attendants at Brauron were called "little bears." Hun: Orsolya, Ger: Ursel, Pol: Urszula. Bearers: Ursula K. le Guin (b. 1929), the American author; Ursula Southill (c. 1488-1561), the English soothsayer and prophetess-better known as Mother Shipton.

Ursus ' Latin: ursus "bear." "The name of three saints. 19th C.

Usha Y The name of the Hindu Goddess of the dawn, more correctly known as Ushas. San: usas "dawn"-cognate with Gr: EOS and L: AURORA.

Usil c~ Etruscan sun God, equated with the Greek Helios and Roman Sol.

Ute Y The Modern German form of Uda, a variant of ODA. OG: nod "wealth"-cognate with OE: ead and thus EDE. Ute is the name of Kriemhilde's mother in the twelfth-/thirteenth-century German epic the Nibelungenlied.

Uthai y 'Mai name-uthai "sunrise."

Uther c~ Uther Pendragon is well known in Arthurian Romance as the father of King Arthur. The origin of his name, however, is as obscure as that of his son. In medieval literature he appears as Uter, and in Welsh as Wthyr, Uthyr, and Uthr. The earliest reference to Uther is by Nennius, writing in the ninth century, who calls Arthur mab uter and goes on to say that this means "terrible son," because from his youth he was cruel. He was correct; in Welsh uthr means "terrible," but it is possible that later historians unfamiliar with Welsh misunderstood and took uter to be a personal name-or, perhaps it was Nennius himself who misunder

stood, and Uter was the name or nickname of Arthur's father, which he misinterpreted. Uther features frequently in later versions of the tale of King Arthur, such as T. H. White's *The Once and Future King* (1958) and most recently in the British drama *Merlin* (2008-). 19th C.

Uthman c~ Arabic name meaning "baby bustard." Bustards are very large birds-the great bustard is the largest bird in Europe. Turk: Osman.

Utopia Y Greek: ou "not" + topos "place"-although the fact it could derive from eu "good" rather than ou, was something commented upon even by its inventor, Sir Thomas More. In his *Utopia* (1516), it features as the name of an imaginary island with a perfect government, legal system, and lifestyle for its citizens. Since then, it has passed into general use to mean an idyllic, perfect-and almost certainly unobtainable-society. 19th C.

Utopian Gc Y English: Utopian "belonging to UTOPIA," hence "believing in/aiming for a perfect society," "visionary," as well as "impossibly ideal/idealistic."

Uzziah c~ Biblical name. Heb: "power of Yahweh." 17th C.

Uzziel c~ Biblical name. Heb: "power of (a) God." Also said to be the name of a cherub. 17th C.

Vacuna Y The name of an obscure Sabine Goddess. She is identified with a number of other divinities, including Ceres, Diana, Minerva and Venus. Usually derived from L: *vacuus* "empty" and "devoid of," it is more likely that its real source is Sabine, and the true meaning lost. It has been speculated that she is a Goddess who looks after absent loved ones, but there is too little known about her to say anything for certain.

Vahishta ? c? An attribute of Asha, one of the six "Divine Sparks" of Ahura Mazda in Zoroastrianism. It means "best" in Old Persian, and is used as a girl's name in India.

Vaivora Y Lithuanian Goddess of the planet Mercury; one of the daughters of Saule.

Vaiyra Y e An attribute of Kshathra, another of the Zoroastrian six "Divine Sparks" of Ahura Mazda. In Old Persian, it means "desirable."

Vajk c? Hungarian name, probably deriving from the Old Turkish *baj* "rich" and "affluent" or *bajiq* "truthful," "true," "honest," and "faithful." It was the original, Pagan name of the eleventh century King Stephen I of Hungary, prior to his conversion to Christianity.

Vakarine 2 Lithuanian Goddess of the Evening Star. Lith: *vakarinis* "evening" and "west."

Valda Y Valda originated in America, where it was probably conceived as a feminine form of Scandinavian boy's name Valdemar ON: *valdr* "rule" + *m&rr* "famous" or its German cognate Waldemar. Valda does appear in Scandinavia (and, similarly, Walda is found in Germany), but only from the late nineteenth century. The same is true of feminine forms of names which contain these elements such as Torvalda from Torvald (seelhorold).

Vale d Y Technically speaking, a vale is a tract of land lying between two hill-ranges often traversed by a river or stream. More often than not, however, the word is used poetically for any type of valley. A surname derives from it. 19th C.

Valency c Y The word "valency" is principally used today in chemistry, referring to the number of bonds an individual atom can form with other atoms. Originally, however, it simply meant "power," "strength," and "might." L: valentia "vigor" and "capacity" < valeo "to be strong." There is also a River Valency, in Cornwall, although its name seems to be a corruption of Cornish: melinchi "mill-house."

Valens c~ Latin: valens "strong," "vigorous," and "healthy" < valeo "to be strong." The standard Roman word of parting was vale, carrying the sense "keep well." Valens was a common cognomen in Roman times, borne by a fourth-century Roman Emperor among other historical figures. 17th C.

Valentina ? Feminine form of VALENTINE, mostly used in Russia, Spain, Italy, etc., found in the ESW from the seventeenth century. Fr: Valentine. Bearers: Valentina Schlee (1899-1989), the Russian-born fashion designer, who was simply known as "Valentina."

Valentine c~ Y Famous as the name of the saint of lovers, very little is known about him-or rather them, as two Valentines are commemorated on February 14. L: Valentinus "belonging to VALENS." How one saint (or both) became the patron saint of lovers is a matter of some dispute. No St. Valentine was mentioned in the first list of saints compiled in the mid-fourth century. Even in the late fifth century, when the feast day had been established, nothing seems to have been known about him. Only in medieval times is any story told about a St. Valentine who was martyred during the third century, after trying to convert the Emperor. In the early eighteenth century, it was suggested that the Feast of St. Valentine had been created to supersede the Pagan fertility festival of the Lupercalia and the Februa-specifically the rites to Juno Februata. The argument against this is that the Lupercalia was only celebrated in Rome, and Juno Februata is only attested in the writings of the fourth-century Christian apologist Arnobius of Sicca. Also, Valentine's Day didn't acquire any of its associations with romantic love until the fourteenth century. This still doesn't mean, of course, that St. Valentine wasn't invented to take over the Lupercalia. 12th C. Since the sixteenth century, it has sometime been used for girls. Hun: Balint, Welsh: Folant, Cz, Fr, Get, Rom, Ru, Scand: Valentin, Sp: Valentin,

It: Valentino, Pol: Walenty. Bearers: Valentine Michael "Mike" Smith is the hero of Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* (1961).

Valeria 2 The feminine form of VALERIUS. 'There are numerous bearers of the name known to us in history. Probably the most famous (or rather, notorious) is Valeria Messalina the wife of the Emperor Claudius, eventually executed for treason.' There is more than one St. Valeria of dubious origins venerated in the Catholic Church, particularly St. Valerie of Limoges, who carried her severed head to a bishop to baptize her. 'This smacks heavily of a Pagan Celtic severed-head cult. 16th C Var: Valerie, Valery. It, Port, Ru, Sp: Valeria, Fr: Valerie, Pol: Waleria.

Valerian c~ Valerian is the English form of Valerianus meaning "belonging to VALERIUS." It was the name of a third-century Roman emperor and more than one saint. It is also the name of an important herb which has been known from Antiquity for its healing properties. Ruled by Mercury and Water, Galen prescribed it for insomnia, and it is still used as a sedative and for migraines and other pain relief. In medieval Sweden, it was worn by grooms to ward off the envy of the elves. It is also considered to have magical properties regarding purification and love, not to mention sleep. 16th C.

Valerius c? The gens Valeria was one of the most important, powerful, and aristocratic in Ancient Rome. L: valeo "to be strong" and "to be healthy." 17th C.

Valkyrie Y The Valkyries are divine females who, according to the Nordic tradition, decide the fate of those in battle and convey the spirits of the dead to Valhalla, where they serve them mead. ON: valkyria "chooser of the slain" < valr "the slain" + kjosa "to choose." Old English cognates exist: wælcyrge and wælcyrrie-suggesting that the Valkyrie may also have featured in Anglo-Saxon Paganism too. Late 19th C.

Valmai Y A name which is now regarded as Australian, though it was in use in Britain from the late nineteenth century, mostly in Wales, where the "more correct" Welsh form Falmai occurs from the early twentieth century. Its origins are very unclear. 'The traditional etymology claims it is the Welsh for mayflower, but this is wrong. It may possibly derive from the

Welsh fel Mai "like May" (fal is a variant form of fel), Jfel Mai "dear May" or afal Mai "apple May." It could also be a corruption of balmaidd, "balmy" or a coinage based on GWALCHMAI. It may even be simply a variant of VELMA given a Welsh "flavor."

Valor a' Y Latin: valor "value" < valeo "to be strong," "to be vigorous," "to be healthy," and "to be worth" (used of money). It was this last meaning that "valor" emerged from, and when the word was first used in English, it maintained this sense. his led to it acquiring a general sense of value and worth, and lastly courage and bravery. 20th C.

Valyant e In the Arthurian Romances, Valyant was the name of a king of Wales and a cousin of Sir Lancelot. The name is simply a medieval spelling of the English Valiant "strong" and "stalwart." OF: vailant < L: valeo "to be strong" and "to be healthy." It also gave rise to a surname. Prince Valiant in the Day of King Arthur is a very long-running American comic strip begun by Hal Foster in 1937, spawning two film versions and an animated television series in the 1990s. 18th C.

Vance c English surname. OE: fenn "marsh" and "fen." 18th C.

Vanda Y A variant of WANDA, used in various Slavic language-speaking countries, including the Czech Republic (where the word vanda means "frolic") and Russia. It features in Dvorak's opera Vanda (1876) about the Polish princess. Largely on account of the opera, it has also been used in the ESW since the late nineteenth century. Vanda is also a Persian name meaning "wish" or "desire," and the name given to a genus of orchids, which is derived from the Sanskrit word for the plant. Var: Vonda.

Vandal e The Vandals were a Germanic tribe who sacked Rome in 455 CE. "Vandal" has since become a byword for anyone who mindlessly damages or destroys public or private property. his is unfair to the Vandals, who weren't any more destructive than any other ancient people-and the Romans themselves were responsible for a fair share of wanton destruction in their time-indeed, far more so than the Vandals. Old Teutonic: *wend- "to turn" and "to change"; it is connected with Old German words with the sense of "to wander," thus its original meaning was most likely "wanderer." The German form Wendel was used as a personal name in the Middle Ages,

along with a diminutive Wendelin. Only a few people have seen past the negative associations artificially placed upon this ancient tribal name and bestowed it as a given name since the late nineteenth century.

Vanessa y A name invented by Jonathan Swift as a pseudonym for his lover Esther Vanhomrigh (c. 1688-1723). It first appeared in his poem "Cadenus and Vanessa" (1713). Swift may have been influenced by PHANES while he was coining the name. As well as being a girl's name, Vanessa is also the name of a genus of butterflies, which includes the Red Admiral. 18th C. Bearers: Vanessa Bell (1879-1961), the British artist; Vanessa Redgrave (b. 1937), the British actress.

Vanilla Y Vanilla derives from the older Sp: vaynilla, a diminutive of vania "sheath" < L: vagina "sheath" and "scabbard." The name was originally applied to the pod of the Vanilla planifolia because of its scabbard-like shape; this in turn was bestowed upon the plant and upon the aromatic essence extracted from the pod. Ruled by Venus and Water, vanilla is used in magic in spells relating to love and passion. Late 19th C.

Vanora Y A Scottish form of GAYNOR and thus GUINEVERE. Vanora's Grave in Meigle, Scotland, is a grass-covered mound in front of which two carved Pictish stones of Christian date are known to have once stood. Late 19th C.

Var Y Var-sometimes called Vor-is the Norse Goddess of awareness. She is associated with oaths and agreements, and appears to be distinct from Vor, despite the similarity of their names. ON: vdrar "solemn vow" and "oath," or var "springtime."

Varda y Varda was the name given by J. R. R. Tolkien to one of the Valar, a race of angelic like beings. Varda Elentari, to give her full name, is also known as Elbereth, and is essentially a Goddess of beauty and light. Quenya: varda "sublime" or "lofty." Varda is also a modern Hebrew girl's name, deriving from vered "rose." Early 20th C.

Varuna c~ Varuna is the Hindu God of sky, rain, and the celestial ocean. Chief of the Adityas, the etymology of his name is uncertain. It possibly

derives from the Sanskrit root yr "to surround," which is plausible, given his realm. He is associated with the moon and is the brother of Mitra.

Vasant The name of an attendant of Kamadeva, the Hindu God of love.
San: vasanta "the spring." Fem: Vasanta. Bengali: Basant.

Vashti Y In origin, a Persian name meaning "beautiful" or perhaps "best." It was the name of the wife of Xerxes (who appears as Ahasuerus in the Bible), who was banished because she refused to come before him "to show her beauty to the people and nobles." He was "in high spirits from wine" at the time. As a result she has become something of a feminist icon. The name has been used since the sixteenth century, although by the nineteenth, it was regarded as a Romani name. Bearers: Vashti Bunyan (b. 1945), the English singer-songwriter. Vashti (1869) is a novel by Augusta Jane Evans.

Vasu c~ Sanskrit: vasu "wealth," "excellent," "and" "good. "The epithet of a number of Gods including Indra, Krishna and Vishnu.

Vasudha Y Indian girl's name. San: vasudha "giving wealth" and "the Earth."

Vasudhara Y The name of the Buddhist bodhisattva of wealth, prosperity, and abundance. San: vasu "wealth," "excellent" and "good" + dhara "stream."

Vaszoly cc Hungarian name. The origin is uncertain. It is probably the Hungarian form of BASIL, but it was in use in pre-Christian Hungary. Most use of Basil outside Greece is in honor of the saint, which suggests Vaszoly's origins may lie elsewhere, though it is possible the name filtered into use from neighboring Christian states, prior to Hungary's Christianization.

Vata c~ In Hinduism, Vata is another name for Vayu. Joined with Vayu, he is the Zoroastrian dual divinity VayuVata. San: vata "air" and "wind." Vata also means "to be free" in Hawaiian, while in a number of Slavic languages, it means "cotton" and "cotton wool." In Quenya, it means "path."

Vaughan e Anglicized form of the Welsh surname Fychan < W: bych, a medieval variant of bach "small." Bearers: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), the English composer.

Vayu c~ The name of the Hindu God of wind and the spiritual father of Lord Hanuman. He is also known as Vata and Pavana. San: vayu "air" and "wind." In Zoroastrianism, Vayu is combined with Vata to create the dual deity Vayu-Vata.

Veasna a' Y Khmer name-viehsnaa "destiny," "fortune" and "luck." Var: Visna.

Veda y Sanskrit: veda "knowledge," "knowledge of ritual," "true knowledge," and "sacred lore." The Vedas are sacred texts of Hinduism, the most famous of which is the Rigveda.

Vedra Y Latin name for the River Wear < PIE: *wod-r"water"-the same root as "water." It is likely that Vedra is also the name of a Goddess associated with the river. Vedra also means "sky blue" and "clear" in Serbian.

Vedran c~ Serbo-Croatian name-vedar "clear" (used particularly of the sky), "serene," and "cheerful," cognate with the Russian vyodro "fair weather" and Slovene veder "clear" and "bright."The ultimate source is PIE: *we-dhro- "weather"from which the English word "weather" also derives.

Vega Y The brightest star in the constellation Lyra, Vega (Alpha Lyrae) is also the fifth-brightest star in the sky. To the Akkadians, the star was known as Tiranna, to the Assyrians,

Dayan-same-"the judge of Heaven."Vega itself derives from Ar: an-nasr al-waqi "the alighting vulture"; Vega evolved from the waqi portion, meaning "alighting."The star has often featured in literature, particularly science fiction. Late 19th C.

Veia Y The name of a Witch unflatteringly portrayed by Horace; Horace's treatment of Witches is often thought partially responsible for their

depiction in the medieval and early modern periods. The name derives from the name of the important Etruscan town of Veii-a rival of Rome during the early Republic-hence it means simply "Veian." The ultimate etymology is very uncertain. It has tentatively been suggested that it may be connected with PIE: *weik- "village." Also the name of a genus of moths.

Veil Y cc English "veil." L: velum "sail," "curtain," and "veil." The word was first used of the head-dresses worn by women in the Middle Ages, particularly nuns, but its use for a hanging or curtain is almost as old in English. Pagans often speak figuratively of the "veil between the worlds," referring to the imperceptible barrier between the physical and the metaphysical spheres or planes or existence. Many believe this barrier-or veil-has periods when it is "thinner" than others, allowing easier passage for spirits of all kinds to pass betwixt and between. For the Ancient Celts, water was frequently viewed as a transition point-hence the Celtic tradition of making offerings in wells, lakes and springs, not to mention the number of supernatural beings associated with such places. The surname Veil derives from OF: veille "the watch"-used metonymically of a watchman. 19th C.

Vela Y One of the constellations carved out of the ancient constellation Argo Navis in 1763. L: vela "the Sails." Vela was also used as a praenomen for girls by the Etruscans, as a feminine form of the male Vel. The meaning is uncertain; the Etruscan verb vel meant "to hide," but this may be coincidental. Late 19th C.

Vellaunus c~ The name of a Celtic God, known from two inscriptions, one in Britain and one in France. He is associated with Mars in the British one, and Mercury in the French. CC: *wellauno- "chief"

Velma Y Almost certainly a variant of the German WILMA, which, in German, is pronounced rather a lot like Velma. Mid 19th C.

Velvet Y The luxurious fabric, long the preserve of the aristocracy and royalty. L: villus "shaggy hair." Late 19th C. Enid Bagnold's novel National Velvet (1935) is responsible for much of its twentieth-century use. Var: Velvette.

Venant c~ The Old Persian name for the star Regulus.'The meaning is unknown.

Venatrix Y Latin: venatrix "the huntress." An epithet of Venus.

Venetia ? A name of uncertain origin. It is sometimes said to be a Latinized form of Gwynedd (see Gwyneth), though it is perhaps more likely to be connected with VENICE; Venetia was the Latin name for the city and region. Bearers: Venetia Digby (1600-33), the celebrated wife of Sir Kenelm Digby. Venetia (1833) is a novel by Benjamin Disraeli.

Vengeance 2 e The concept of vengeance is ancient and deeply engrained in human culture, as testified by the number of Gods and Goddesses who preside over it. In the past, when there was no state-organized law enforcement, these deities were the only recourse for a large proportion of the populace in many civilizations. OF: vengeance < L: vindico "to ask judgment for." 19th C.

Venia Y Latin: venia "grace," "indulgence," "favor," and "forgiveness." Late 19th C.

Venice Y The name of the famous and historic city, deriving from Veneti, the name of an Illyrian tribe who lived in the area in ancient times.'The ultimate etymology is unknown. 19th C.'The Italian form Venezia is also in use for girls in the ESW.

Venus Y Roman Goddess of love, firmly associated with the Greek Aphrodite. As the mother of Aeneas, the legendary ancestor of Romulus and Remus, she was held in particularly high regard in Rome. Her name in ancient times was popularly derived from L: vinco "to conquer" or vincio "to bind," though in fact it seems to derive from the same proto-Latin source which gave VENIA and veneror "to revere."The Venus of Willendorf is a prehistoric figurine of a full-figured Goddess, which is over twenty-thousand years old. 16th C. Bearers: Venus Williams (b. 1980), the American tennis player.

Venutius c? The name of a first-century king of the Brigantes, who fought against the Romans. His dispute first

arose with his ex-wife Cartimandua, but ended in a battle with Rome. CC: *weniyf "family" and "kindred."

Ver a' Y Latin: ver "the spring."

Vera Y Russian name-vera "faith." It could also be regarded as the feminine of VERUS. It was virtually unknown in Britain until Ouida used it in her 1860 novel Moths. It was also used by Marion Crawford in his A Cigarette-Maker's Romance (1890). Bearers: Vera Brittain (1893- 1970), the British writer, historian, feminist, and pacifist; Vera Zhelikhovsky (1835-96), the sister of Helena Blavatsky, a Russian novelist of tales which usually featured magic and mystery.

Verbeia 2 The name of a Brythonic Goddess, known from one inscription found at Ilkley in Yorkshire. The town is on the banks of the River Wharfe, and it is likely Verbeia was the Goddess of the river. CC: *wera- "rain" or *wor- "over" and "above" + *biwo- "alive."

Verbena Y Latin: verbena "vervain." Lemon verbena, known for its strong, lemony scent, is used as a febrifuge and sedative. 19th C.

Vercingetorix c~ The name of a Gaulish king and warcommander, who united the Gauls and resisted Rome fiercely, though he was ultimately defeated by Julius Caesar. There is some dispute over the etymology of the name, but it is usually considered to derive from CC: *wor- "over" and "above" + *kengeto- "warrior" + *r-g- "king."

Verdant e Y English "verdant" means "green with vegetation"-with the implication of lush abundance-from L: viridis "green." The surname Verdant derives from Verdun in La Manche, France. Its Roman name was Verodunum. CC: *wor- "over" and "above" + *d3no- "fort" and "rampart." Late 19th C.

Verdigris 2 g Verdigris is a matte greenish-blue substance created by applying copper with acetic acid, much used as a pigment in oil-painting and as a finish on furniture. Fr: vert de Grece "green of Greece." 19th C.

Vere c? British surname from Ver in France. CC: *werna "alder-tree." 17th C.

Verena Y The name of a third-century saint much venerated in Switzerland. The etymology is obscure. Legend states she was Egyptian, so it may have Egyptian roots. Another possibility is Gr: Aherne "dowry," which was also applied to a wife or concubine won in battle. There is an outside chance that it developed as the feminine form of L: Verinus-"of VERUS." 17th C. Charlotte Mary Yonge used it in *The Heir of Redclyffe* (1854), as did Henry James in *The Bostonians* (1886).

Verity Y One of the Puritan names taken from abstract nouns in the seventeenth century, Verity-"truth"-featured in Winston Graham's *Poldark* novels (1945-2002).

Vermilion e 2 The name of the color, a rich deep red, originally extracted from cinnabar-the ore from which mercury is extracted. OF: vermeillion "cinnabar" < vermeil < L. vermiculus "little worm"-a reference to the insect from which scarlet-colored dye was extracted. 19th C. Var: Vermillion, Vermily.

Verna Y Latin: vernus "of spring"; the word features as part of many botanical names such as *Gentiana verna* (the spring gentian) and *Scilla verna* (spring squill). Often treated as a feminine form of VERNON. 19th C.

Vernal c~ 2 English: vernal "of the spring" < L: vernalis "of the spring" < ver "spring." The surname Vernal is a variant of Farnell. ME: fern + hill. 18th C.

Verne c~ English and French surname. The English is a variant of FERN. The French surname, as borne by Jules Verne (1828-1905), derives from an obsolete French word for the alder tree from CC: *werna-. 19th C.

Vernon c~ English surname, derived from Vernon in Normandy. CC: *werna- "alder-tree." 17th C. Its fate has probably been sealed by the odious character of Vernon Dursley in the Harry Potter series.

Verona Y The name of the Italian city, known as Verona since Roman times. The etymology is unknown. It has been used as a given name in the ESW since the nineteenth century, influenced perhaps by the adoption of other Italian cities as names. It may also have been viewed as a shorter form of VERONICA. It featured in Sinclair Lewis's novel *Babbitt* (1922) and the subsequent films of 1924 and 1934.

Veronica Y Which came first, the saint or the veil? There is considerable dispute over the origin of Veronica. Most today agree that the name is a variant of BERENICE,

and that folk-etymology led to the derivation from L: vera iconica "true image," because St. Berenice wiped the face of the dying Jesus with her veil. An image of his face miraculously appeared upon it. It should be noted that this tale dates only from the eleventh century. The veneration of the Veil of Veronica likewise dates to medieval times when the obsession with holy relics was at its height and the notion that some sort of image of Christ had survived from Antiquity was one which captured popular imagination (the most famous today, of course, being the Turin Shroud-but there are others). It is therefore perfectly plausible that St.

Berenice/Veronica was a complete and total invention to explain the existence of the Veil of "Veronica," i.e. the Veil of the vera iconica. Indeed, it is tempting to speculate that this relic arose in competition to similar others, in particular the earlier Image of Edessa (sometimes called the Manylion), which is venerated in the Orthodox church. It is not difficult to imagine some relic-peddler touting it as the "true" image, as opposed to all those other "fake" ones. In which case, the traditional derivation straight from vera iconica once again seems plausible, and attempts to derive Veronica from a genuine name rather unnecessary. It is the supreme irony that the classic depiction of Christ in these images traces back through the early Byzantine icons directly to the Pagan iconography of Zeus, a "true image" of the great chryselephantine statue of Zeus at Olympia and the blueprint for the face of Zeus in Pagan times. Veronica is also the botanical name for the speedwell, a little herb with pretty, bright blue flowers, long used by herbalists to heal or alleviate various complaints, including asthma. 17th C. Fr: Veronique.

Verres ' Latin: verres "boar." It was the surname of a man prosecuted for extortion while governor of Sicily by the orator and politician Cicero.

Vert c? A term first used of green vegetation in a wood, principally grown as cover for deer. As a result, it is now also used to mean "green," especially in heraldry. Anglo-Norman: vert < It: verde < L: viridis "green."

Verticordia 2 Epithet of Venus. L: verto "to change" + cordes "hearts." A temple to Venus Verticordia was consecrated in Rome in 114 BCE, after three Vestal Virgins were found guilty of breaking their vows of chastity. It was dedicated on April 1 and a festival was held on that day henceforth in which Roman women invoked the Goddess to "turn their hearts" to virtue (regardless of whether they were virtuous or not already). Verticordia is also a genus of plants, often called the featherflowers in English, which are mostly native to South-West Australia.

Vertumnus g The name of the Roman God of the changing seasons. He is also a God of gardens and fruit trees. In ancient times, he was believed to be Etruscan in origin, and this is probably correct. An earlier form of his name was Vortumnus, which almost certainly derived from Voltumna, the name of the Etruscan Earth God-the supreme God of the Etruscans.'The change from Vol- to Ver- arose because it was associated by the Romans with L: verto "to change." Vertumnus's festival was called the Vertumnalia and was held on August 13.'There is a famous portrait of the Holy Roman Emperor, astrologer, alchemist, and patron of the arts Rudolf II (1552-1612) by Giuseppe Arcimboldo in the guise of Vertumnus, with his face and torso entirely composed of vegetables, fruits, and flowers.

Verus ci Latin: verus "true" and "truthful." A common Roman cognomen. 17th C. Bearers: Lucius Verus (130-169), the co-emperor of Marcus Aurelius.

Vervain c~ Y The English form of VERBENA. Vervain has long been valued as a herb of healing and ritual, being associated with the Divine in ancient times. In Ancient Egypt, it was called tears of Isis and later, tears of Juno. Leaves and twigs were used in sacred ceremonies and were placed on altars to Jupiter, although verbena was used as a generic term for sacred herbs and so it is impossible to say whether this referred to the true vervain

itself It was one of the three herbs held most sacred to the ancient Druids- the other two being meadowsweet and water mint. In later folklore, vervain tea was believed to offer protection against vampires. Ruled by Venus and Earth, it has numerous uses in modern herbalism including use as a tonic to aid or induce lactation. Magically it may have more uses than any other; it is used in spells relation to protection, love, chastity, purification, prosperity, and healing, including healing holes in auras. 20th C.

Vesna ? A Slavic spirit or Goddess of the Spring. Slavic: vesna "spring." Used as a girl's name in the Balkans.

Vespasian ' The English form of the Latin Vespasianus "belonging to Vespasius." It is the name by which the Roman Emperor Titus Flavius Vespasianus (9-79 CE) is usually known. The Roman family name Vespasius possibly derives from L: vespa "wasp." 17th C.

Vesper cc Y Latin: vesper "evening." It was originally used to denote the Evening Star. Later it came to be used for evening-only from the seventeenth century is the expression "vespers" for the Christian evensong recorded. Vesper is also a rare surname, which seems to have originated in Germany and itself derives from the Latin vesper. 19th C.

Vesta Y The name of the Roman Goddess of the hearth and home, whose name is cognate with the Greek HESTIA. The Vestal Virgins dedicated thirty years of their lives to her. Their principal role was to keep her sacred flame alight. It was renewed every March 1 and burnt continually from the early days of the Republic until the Emperor Theodosius banned Pagan practice in 391 CE. The festival of Vesta was the Vestalia, celebrated between June 7 and 15. 18th C.

Vester c5 A short form of SILVESTER, mostly encountered in Germany. In Latin, vester means "your" and "yours." Bearers: Vester Pegg (1889-1951), the American actor.

Vesunna Y The name of a Gaulish Goddess, about whom we know little except she was invoked as Vesunna Tutela at Perigeux in the Dordogne. CC: *wesu "excellent" and "noble"-probably the same source as ESUS.

Vetch c~ A name used of a number of wild flowers. L: vicia "vetch."
Varieties include the bitter, purple milk, spring, and tufted. The great vetch is used magically to encourage fidelity. Vetch is the name of a character in Ursula Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea* (1968).

Victor c~ Latin: victor "victor." The name of more than one saint of dubious origin-all but one allegedly Roman soldiers of one kind or another. It has often been used in the aftermath of the various conflicts over the last hundred years, especially after the First World War. 16th C. Dim: Vic, Vicky. Fr, Port, Sp: Victor. Get, Hun, Ru, Scand, Serb: Viktor It: Vittorio, Pol: Wiktor. Bearers: Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence (1864-92), the heir to the British throne; Victor Hugo (1802-85), the French novelist; Victor Frankenstein, principal character in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818); Victor Krum, a wizard in the Harry Potter series.

Victoria 2 Latin: victoria "victory." The name of a Roman Goddess, the personification of victory, and the equivalent of the Greek Nike. It has been used in the ESW since the sixteenth century, but it wasn't until Queen Victoria came to the British throne in 1837 that it became well known. Hundreds of places have since been named after her, including Lake Victoria in Africa and an Australian state. Usage as a given name increased noticeably in the aftermath of both World Wars. Dim: Vicky, Vicki, Vickie, Vikki, Vix, VITA, Tori, Toria, Tory. Sc Ga: Bhictoria, W: BUDDUG, Fr: Victoire, Ger, Ru, Scand: Viktoria, It: Vittoria, Pol: Wiktoria.

Victorina Y Feminine form of Victorious a Roman cognomen "belonging to VICTOR." 18th C. Fr: Victorine.

Victory ? e English "victory" derives from L: victoria "victory." HMS Victory was Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar (1805). 17th C.

Victrix Y Latin: victrix "female victor." An epithet of Venus. There was a shrine to Venus Victrix on the Capitoline Hill in Rome. Late 19th C.

Vida Y Portuguese and Spanish: vida "life." Vida is also a Persian girl's name-Var: Veeda-the origins of which are unclear. It may be an adoption of the Arabic girl's name Wida, which is strongly associated with Jumu'ah-al-

Wida usually translated as "Friday of Farewell"-the name given to the last Friday of Ramadan. Alternatively, it may be the Persian form of VEDA.

Vidar c~ The Norse God of vengeance, Vidar is a son of Odin. It is he who destroys the wolf Fenrir in the great battle of Ragnarok. ON: Vidarr-the derivation isn't entirely certain; it is possibly ON: vitha "wide" + valdr "ruler." Var: Vidarr, Vithar, Vitharr. 19th C.

Vienna Y The name of the elegant capital city of Austria, famous for its art galleries, opera houses, and romantic setting on the River Danube. Its name in Roman times was Vindobona-CC: *vindo- "white" + *bundo- "base," "floor," and "bottom." 19th C.

Vigdis y Old Norse: vig "war" + dis "Goddess." Revived in Norway and Iceland in the nineteenth century.

Viggo e Latinized form of Danish Vigge-short form of names beginning Vig-. ON: vig "war." Used in Scandinavia since at least the nineteenth century. Bearers: Viggo Mortensen (b. 1958), the Danish-American actor.

Vijay c' Epithet of Arjuna. San: v~aya "victor," "vanquishing," and "triumph." Bengali: Bijay, Bijoy.

Vijaya Y Sanskrit: v~aya "victor," "vanquishing," and "triumph." Vijaya is one of the names of the Goddess Durga.

Viking g The name of a legendary Norse hero, son of Eimyrja by Vifil and grandson of Logi. He was the father of nine sons, among them rllhorstein and Ihorer. Viking was the largest, strongest warrior of his day, possessing a magic sword and a magic ship, which was the first ship in the North and was a gift of the Aegir, and on it he went pillaging and having adventures. He was, in short, the eponymous ancestor of the Vikings. The Old Norse form was Vikingr, deriving either from ON: vik "creep" or "inlet," or cognate with the OE: wic "camp" + the suffix -ingr "belonging to" or "of the kind of" As a word, "viking" is found in Old English-as wicing "pirate"-as early as the eighth century, so it is not entirely clear where its origins really lie. It is possible that "viking" and the hero Viking-may have been claimed by the Norse in retrospect. The Old English word did not pass into

Middle English, and modern use of "viking" to mean "a Scandinavian" dates only to the early nineteenth century. Late 19th C.

Vila Y The name of a type of fairy or nymph in Slavic mythology, also called a wi/i-the word used in the ballet Giselle (1841) by Adolphe Adam. The vila are particularly associated with storms, and dwell in streams, springs, and trees like the nymphs of classical mythology. Unlike classical nymphs, however, they can change their shape at will, but usually appear to mortals as beautiful maidens. 19th C. Var: Veela.

Vimala Y Sanskrit: vimala "pure" and "stainless." It is the name of a Hindu Goddess, and is sometimes used as another name for Durga.

Vinca y Latin: vinca "periwinkle" < vincio "to bind." 20th C.

Vincent cc Vincent is the English and French form of the Latin Vincentius < L: vincens "conquering." As the name of a number of saints, it was a popular given name across Medieval Europe, including Britain. Revived 19th C. Dim: Vince, Vinnie. Basque: Bixente, Sp: Vicente, Cz: Vincenc, Dut, Fr: Vincent, It: Vincenzo, Ger: Vinzenz, Pol: Wincenty. Bearers: Vincent van Gogh (1853-90), the Dutch impressionist; Vincent Price (1911-93), the American actor.

Vindonnus c~ Celtic God known from three inscriptions found in France, in one of which he is equated with Apollo. CC: *vindo- "white" and "bright"-probably carrying with it the same extras senses of "blessed" and "pure" as GWYN.

Vine a Y English "vine" < Fr: vigne "vine" < L: vinea "vineyard" and vinum "wine" < Gr: oine "vine." The vine is rich in associations. It is sacred to Dionysus, who is often depicted in Greek art surrounded by a vine laden with bunches of grapes. Dionysus is linked to the Mysteries, and his vine is a symbol of youth and eternal life. This was later appropriated by Christianity, with Jesus being referred to as "the true vine." The principal use of the vine is, of course, the production of grapes and wine, a drink known to have existed for thousands of years. However, the leaves are also eaten, most frequently stuffed with vegetables, meat-and/ or rice-and they also have medicinal usages. Vine is also an English surname, arising as an

appellation for someone who worked in, or lived near, a vineyard-these were plentiful in Medieval England. 16th C. Var: Vyn; Vina, Vinah, Vena Y. Vina is sometimes used as a pet-form of DAVINA.

Viola y Latin: viola "violet." It is encountered in Medieval Europe, such as Viola Elizabeth of Ciesyn, Queen of Poland and Bohemia (c. 1291-1317). Shakespeare used the name in Twelfth Night. 16th C. Bearers: Viola de Lesseps, a character in the film Shakespeare in Love (1998).

Violet Y The violet is one of the best-loved flowers. Ruled by Venus and Water, violets are associated with humility, faithfulness, and death-especially of the young. They were revered by Ancient Greeks who believed Zeus first caused them to grow in the meadows in which his lover To wandered in the form of a cow (Zeus had turned her into one in an attempt to protect her from Hera). To the Romans, the violet was a symbol of mourning and affection for the dead; they used it to decorate tombs. Meanwhile, sweet violets have long been used in herbal medicine. Ancient Greeks used them to "moderate anger," procure sleep, and "to comfort and strengthen the heart." Ancient Britons used them in cosmetics, steeping them in goat's milk to produce a lotion for enhancing beauty. In one tenth-century tract, they were recommended for use to protect against "wykked sperytis." And in past centuries, syrup of violets and violet water were popular treats. Violetta and Violette are found in medieval times as given names, as is the curious Violante, which is generally said to be a variant and from which YOLANDE derives. By the seventeenth century, Violet was mostly used in Scotland. It was revived elsewhere in the nineteenth. W: Fioled. Bearers: Violet Asquith, later Bonham Carter (1887-1969), daughter of Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith. Violet Bott in Richmal Crompton's Just William stories (1922-70) has done the name few favors, not helped by Roald Dahl's Violet Beauregarde in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (1964), but Violet Baudelaire, a principal character of Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (1999-2006), has redressed the balance somewhat.

Viorel c Romanian name-viorela "violet." Fem: Viorica.

Viper c? Y A name applied to numerous small, poisonous snakes. L: vivipera < vivus "alive" + parere "to bring forth"-a reference to the fact that

most vipers give birth to live young rather than lay eggs. The viper is associated with justice, transformation, and rebirth.

Virag y Hungarian name-virdg "bloom," "blossom," and "flower."

Virbius e The name of the deified Hippolytus after Asclepius brought him back to life. He was worshipped under this name as a God of the forests in Latium, Italy.

Virgil e The usual English form of Virgilius, the name of a Roman family to which the great Roman poet Virgil, author of the Aeneid (c. 29-19 BCE), belonged. He was so highly revered that by the Middle Ages, he had become regarded in folk-tradition as a magician and prophet, and his works were considered repositories of magical knowledge. The legendary Books of Pheryllt-knowledge of which Ceridwen is said to possess in the sixteenth-century prose romance Hanes Taliesin-are likely to be the works of Virgil; Pheryllt almost certainly being the Welsh form of Virgil. Virgil derives either from L: virgo "maiden" or virga "green twig." Used in Ireland to render Fergal. 16th C. Var: Vergil. It, Port, Sp: Virgilio. Bearers: St. Vergil (his birth name was Fergal), the eighth-century Irish-born bishop of Salzburg-an astronomer, who proposed that the Earth was round, bringing him into conflict with the Church (despite this, he was still canonized in the thirteenth century); Virgil Grissom (1926-67), the American astronaut; Virgil Tracy, a character in the British supermarionation Thunderbirds (1965-66)-who was named after him.

Virgilia Y The feminine form of Virgilius (see Virgil). It features in Shakespeare's Coriolanus. Late 17th C.

Virginia Y Virginia's use as a modern name stems from its Elizabethan use as an epithet of Queen Elizabeth I, the "Virgin Queen." Virginia is the feminine form of Virginius, a Roman family name, derived either from L: virgo "virgin" or virga "green twig." It was bestowed in her honor upon the first American plantation in the 1580s-which eventually became the state of Virginia. Virginia Dare was also the name of the first child of British heritage to be born in the Americas in 1587, in the "lost colony" of Roanoke. What happened to her and the other colonists is still a matter of conjecture today, but she has become a prominent figure of myth and

folklore. Var: Verginia. Dim: GINA, GINNY, Jinny, It, Port, Rom, Sp, Sw: Virginia, Fr: Virginie. Bearers: Virginia Woolf (1882-1941), the British novelist.

Virgo Y e The name of a constellation and one of the signs of the zodiac. L: virgo "maiden" and "virgin." Traditionally ruled by Mercury, Virgo is a feminine Earth sign, "the Maiden"-though who this maiden was isn't entirely clear. She was often associated with Demeter by the Greeks and Ceres by Romans. She was also said to be the Titaness Astraea, withdrawn to the stars when she became fed up with mankind. To the Babylonians, Virgo was the corn Goddess Shala. In medieval times she was (unsurprisingly) associated with the Virgin Mary. The surname Virgo probably arose as a nickname for someone who played the part of Mary in a medieval mystery play. Probably the most positive traits of Virgos are their tendency to be reliable, rational, precise, and systematic in all they do. They are thorough perfectionists ... though sometimes to the point of fussiness and nit-picking-two of their more negative characteristics. 19th C.

Viridian ' 2 The name of a shade of green, which was bestowed upon one of the synthetic colored dyes invented in the mid-19th C. L: viridis "green." Late 19th C.

Virtue Y One of the many abstract English nouns adopted as given names by sixteenth-/seventeenth-century Puritans. L: virtus "manliness," "valor," and "worth" < vir "man." Virtus was personified by the Romans as a Goddess, embodying their notions of virtue. One of the word's earliest uses in English was to describe power inherent in a supernatural being or the embodiment of such power, as well as its more usual sense today of conformity with the prevalent moral laws and standards of a particular society or community. Var: Vertue (hist).

Visal cc' Y Khmer name-visaal "excellent" and "large."

Vishnu The name of the supreme God of Hinduism. He is believed to have existed in various avatars including Rama and Krishna. San: vis- "to settle," "to enter," and "to pervade" + suffix nu "all."

Vita Y Latin: vita "life." Vita is sometimes used as a short form of VICTORIA. 17th C. In Swahili, and some other Bantu languages, vita means "war." Bearers: Victoria "Vita" Sackville-West (1892-1962), the British writer.

Vitalis a' Latin: vitalis "of life," "belonging to life," and "vital." The name of more than one saint. 13th C.

Vitus G~ Latin: vita "life." Vitus was the name of an early fourth-century saint. In the Middle Ages, people used to dance in front of his statue on his feast day (June 15) in the belief this would confer good health in the coming year. As a result of over-enthusiasm on the part of some dancers, he became associated with the condition now called Sydenham's chorea or chorea minor, then known as St. Vitus's dance, and the saint began to be invoked against that too. 17th C.

Vivian c~y The English form of the Latin cognomen Vivianus "of Vivus"; Vivus-L: vivus "alive." St. Vivian, responsible for the name's use from the twelfth century, was said to be a fifth-century martyr. Even in medieval times, it is probable that the name was used for women, as Viviana occurs in Latin documents. Today, Vivian is used as much for girls-if not more-than for boys. Var. VIVIEN, Vyvyan, Phythian.

Viviane Y A name of the Lady of the Lake in medieval Arthurian Romance. Its origins are obscure. It may derive from VIVIAN, but is perhaps more likely to come from a Celtic source. A connection with the Irish BEIBHINN has been suggested, but Viviane is also known as NINIANE, and it is possible that Viviane simply arose as a misreading. Viviane would be far more familiar to medieval scribes and writers, all of whom would have had a thorough knowledge of Latin, while only a few would know any of the Celtic languages. 19th C.

Vivien y a As a variant of VIVIAN, Vivien saw only very limited use as a given name prior to the publication of Alfred Lord Tennyson's Vivien (1859). Used for boys and girls, its earlier use probably represented adoption of the surname. Tennyson bestowed it upon the enchantress who seduced and imprisoned Merlin, crafting it from VIVIANE and the French Vivienne. Since then, Vivien and Vivienne have become the usual British

feminine forms of Vivian, although the actress Vivien Leigh (1913-67) was originally called Vivian. Var: Vivianne. Bearers: Vivienne Westwood (b. 1941), the British fashion designer; Vivianne Crowley, the British Wiccan authoress and lecturer. In 2008, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie gave the name to their baby daughter.

Vixen 2 Old English:fyxen "female fox"-since the sixteenth century, it has also possessed the sense of an "ill-tempered quarrelsome woman." Late 19th C.

Vladimir e Old Russian name-Old Slavic: volod"to rule" + *meri "greatness." First recorded in the ninth century, the name spread to Scandinavia and Germany, inspiring the cognates Valdemar and Waldemar (see Valda).The second element is often associated with Ru: mir "peace" or mir "universe" (the two words have different origins). Bearers: Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924). Dim: Volya-which also means "freedom" and "will" in Russian. Cz: Vladimir, Pol: Wlodzimierz.

Vogue 2 e French: vogue "rowing," "course," and "success" < It: vogare "to row."The word came into English in the sixteenth century with the sense of being considered "foremost in popular estimation"; the most influential members of the court were said to "have the vogue." It quickly came to mean "popularity" and "great esteem," acquiring its modern sense of "fashionable" by the late seventeenth century. Probably now most associated with the fashion magazine Vogue (1892-).20th C.

Voile Y 6 Deriving from the French for VEIL, voile is the name of a semi-transparent fabric, originally made of cotton and wool. It was used for clothing in the past, but is now principally used for decorative curtains, as well as for mosquito nets. Voile also happens to be a surname. W: moel "bald." 19th C. Var: Voyle.

Volumnia Y The feminine form of Volumnius, the name of a patrician Roman family, probably deriving from the Roman God and Goddess Volumnus and Volumna. Volumnus, a fertility God, is probably linked to the Etruscan God Voltumna (see Vertumnus).The Romans, however, derived the names from L: volo "to want" and "to wish," and Volumnus and

Volumna became a divine pair presiding over "right desire." Volumnia features in Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*. 19th C.

Vona Y Probably a variant of YVONNE or VERNA, influenced by other -ona names such as Mona and Rona. In Icelandic, vona means "hope," while in Slovak, it means "wind" and "fragrance." In Albanian, it means "late crops." Late 19th C.

Vor Y The name of a Norse Goddess of wisdom-not to be confused with Var. Her name may be cognate with OE:

warn "watchful care," "safe-keeping," "defense," and "protection." The English "ware" probably gave rise to the identical "ware" meaning "goods" and merchandise"-since these are objects kept safely by merchants-and it is this meaning that occurrences of ON: vara "wares," and vor- in compounds represents.

Vortigern c? There has been much discussion about the truth behind Vortigern, the king who invited the Saxon mercenaries Hengist and Horsa to Britain, and almost sacrificed Merlin. Some believe his name is a title or byname, rather than a genuine name. This may be the case, but the name does contain elements attested in Brythonic names of Roman and Sub-Roman Britain. CC: *wor- "over" and "super" + *tigerno- "chief." 18th C. W: Gwrtheyrn.

Vortimer a In Arthurian tradition, Vortimer is the name of the son and successor of Vortigern. Its etymology is uncertain, but it may derive from a hypothetical *Vortamorix. CC: *wor "above," "over" + -amo- a superlative suffix + *r g "king," thus "supreme king." After his father's death, Vortimer was said to have driven the Saxon invaders back to the sea. He was mortally wounded in battle, and with his last breath instructed his followers to bury him at the spot where the Saxons had first landed. His body would then act as a talisman, protecting Britain against further invasion-but they didn't heed his advice. 19th C. W: Gwrthefyr.

Vulcan c~ The well-known Roman God of fire, blacksmiths, and volcanoes-also noted for being lame and rather ugly, yet still the husband of Venus. His association with harmful fires ensured that the Romans were

always careful to propitiate him, which was why his festival-the Volcanalia-was on August 23. At this time of year, after a long, hot Mediterranean summer, the risk of fire was at its greatest. It was during this festival that Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the town of Pompeii. The American sciencefiction series Star Trek (1966-69) ensured that "Vulcan" is now associated with an alien race exemplified by Mr. Spock. 17th C.

Vytautas c Lithuanian name-vyti "to chase," "to drive away," or "to hunt" + tauta "people." Get, Pol: Witold. Bearers: Vytautas the Great, Grand Duke of Lithuania (c. 1350- 1430), the Lithuanian national hero.



Wace a' A twelfth-century Anglo-Norman poet. He was the author of the Roman de Brut which was based on Monmouth's Historia Regum Britanniae (c. 1136) and the Roman de Ron, which was a verse history of the Dukes of Normandy. His name probably derives-like the surname which came from it-from the same source as WARREN, through the pet-form Wasso. Wasso was, however, an Old Welsh name too-CC: *wasso- "servant" or "lad." "The name, in the form Vassu, is even found on a shard of pottery from the Roman period. 19th C.

Wachilda ? An Anglo-Saxon Goddess, nymph or seagiant who was the mother of the God Wade. "The second element of her name is hild "war" and "battle." "The first is probably wave "vigil" or "wakefulness." "The surname

Wakerill attests to a closely related name in use as a personal name *Wacerhild or *Wxcerhild-where the first element was waver or wacor "watchful" and "vigilant." Get: Wachilt.

Wadd Gc Arabic: wadd "love" and "friendship.-Me name of a God mentioned in the Qu'ran.

Wade c~ Wade was a legendary figure in medieval Britain. He was reputedly a sea giant, who was both feared and honored by those who lived by the sea, and was considered the

father of Wayland the Smith. To the Danes, he was Vadi; to the Germans, Waetla; and to the Anglo-Saxons, Wada. These all share roots with the words "wet" and "water"-all making it likely that he is a sea God. "The surname Wade derives in part from Wada itself-which was used as a personal name and survived the Norman Conquest-and in part from OE: weed "ford." Late 17th C.

Wainani Y Hawaiian name-wai "water" + nani "beauty," "glory," "beautiful," and "splendid."

Wala 2 An Old High German word meaning "wisewoman," "prophetess," and "Witch." It occurs in Wagner's opera Siegfried (1876) as a title of the Goddess Erda, when she is invoked by Wotan. Wala is also an Australian Aboriginal Goddess of the sun and an Arabic girl's name meaning "loyalty" and "love." 19th C.

Walburga ? An eighth-century English-born saint, also known as Wealdburg and Wealdburh, whose cult was established in Germany from the Middle Ages. OE: weald "power" and "dominion" + burh "fortress." Because her feastday was held on May 1, folklorists have proposed that she was either a pre-Christian fertility Goddess or became conflated with such a Goddess. In Germany, she is also known as Valderburg and Walpurgis. Walpurgisnacht is

famous for its celebrations with bonfires and its association with Witches. The name is also preserved in the name of the village of Walberton in Suffolk, which is recorded in the Domesday Book as Walburgeton. Revived 19th C.

Waldo e There was an Old German name Waldo-OG: wald "power," "might," and "force." The English surname, however evolved from WALTHEOF. 18th C. Bearers: Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82), the American poet.

Waleran c' Old English: W lrafn-OE: wal "slaughter" and "carnage" + hr&fn "raven"-cognate with Old German Walahram. Ravens featured on the banners of the Vikings as they went into battle, and it is likely this inspired the name; although there was no Old Norse cognate in use, valravn still features in Danish folklore as fabulous and monstrous ravens that consume the slain of battle. Waleran was the form which the Normans used.'The name didn't survive the Middle Ages, but surnames such as Waldron and Wallraven derive from it. Var: Walram (hist).

Walker e English surname. OE: wealcere "fuller."The "Six Proud Walkers" feature in the English folk-song "Green Grow the Rushes, O!"These are variously explained as members of a Saxon war band, a reference to six men with swords in the Old Testament, the water-pot carriers at the feast of Cana, and burghers of Calais. But as Robert Graves equates the "Two Lily-White Boys" earlier in the song with the Oak and Holly, it might not be unreasonable to suggest that the whole song is related to the Ogham or Druid-lore. So who-or what-are the Six Proud Walkers? 16th C.

Wallace a' Y British surname. OF: Waleis and Walais "Welshman" or "Celt."The surname is commonest in areas close to regions inhabited by Brythonic Celts-namely Wales and Strathclyde in Scotland. Much of its use in Scotland has been in honor of Sir William Wallace (1272-1305). 17th C. Var: WALLIS. Dim: Wally.

Wallis 2 d Variant of WALLACE. 17th C. Bessie Wallis Warfield Simpson (1896-1986), the American divorcee for whom King Edward VIII gave up his throne, was always called Wallis, promoting its use as a name for girls in the twentieth century.

Walter c~ Old English: Wealdhere-weald "power" + here "army"-was reinforced at the time of the Norman Conquest by the Old German cognate Waldhar, and the name

has been in use ever since. Dim: War, Walt, Wally. Bearers: War Tyler (1341-81), leader of the Peasants' Revolt (1381); Sir Walter Raleigh (c. 1552-1618); Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), the Scottish novelist and poet; Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864), the American poet. Sc Ga: Bhaltair, Batair, Bhatair, Fr: Gautier, Welsh: Gwallter, Scand: Valter, Ger: Walther, Dut: Wouter.

Waltheof cc Old English: weald "power" + theof "thief." As the name of a twelfth-century saint-a stepson of King David I of Scotland-it survived into Norman times, lasting until the seventeenth century in the North. Var: Waldeve.

Wand c? Y The word "wand" derives ultimately from the same root meaning "turn" which gives the word "wind," implying suppleness or flexibility. In its earliest examples, it meant simply a stick or rod, usually a slender, pliant stick cut from the stem or branch of a shrub or tree. At first it was used as an alternative to "rod" in biblical references, such as the "rod" of Aaron. So, for instance, in a manuscript c. 1400 of the travels of Sir John Mandeville we have: "In that ark ware Moyses table[t]s ... and Aaron['s] wand..." From at least the early fifteenth century, it was also used for the caduceus of Hermes. In Scotland, a "wand of peace" was a silver-tipped baton given to an outlaw as a token of pardon. Its use as a magic rod is equally old, also dating to the fifteenth century, and it is this meaning which has become the dominant one today. In modern Paganism, the wand is used as symbol of the God and

employed for casting a circle (they are used for turning people into frogs but rarely-and only when provoked!). The surname Wand derives from OE: wand "mole." 19th C.

Wanda Y Wanda's origins are obscure. It may derive from OG: vand "stem" or "young shoot"-cognate with WAND. Alternatively, it may be Polish, deriving perhaps from the name of a Slavic tribal group called the Wends. It was the name of a legendary Polish princess reputed to have lived in the eighth century. The name was rare outside Germany and Poland until the publication of the novel Wanda (1883) by Ouida. Wanda also carries a number of meanings in other languages-Swahili: "open country" and "to fatten"; Shona: "abundant"; Kutu (Tanzania): "stream." Var: VANDA, Vonda.

Ward c3' English surname. OE: weard "guard." Also used as a short form of names ending in -ward, such as HOWARD. 17th C.

Warden cc English surname, derived in part from OF: wardein "guardian," and in part from places called Warden. OE: weard "guard" + dun "hill." 17th C.

Warner a Old German: Varin (see Warren) + harja "folly" or "army." The name died out in the Middle Ages, and the surname derived from it started to be used as a first name in the seventeenth century.

Warren c~ The Varni were a Germanic tribe also known as the Varini, the Warni, the Warini and the Werns. Their name derives ultimately from OG: werren "to hinder" and "to defend," cognate with the English "warn." The tribe was crushed by the Franks at the end of the sixth century but their name lived on in the personal name Varin "one of the Varni." Through the Franks it was passed to the Normans, and the Normans took it to Britain as Warin and Guarin. From the seventeenth century, use was more often than not related to the surname derived from it. Var: Waren, Waryn, Warrin (hist). Bearers:

Warren Hastings (1732-1818), the English statesman; Warren Adler (b. 1927), the American novelist and playwright.

Warwick 5\ English surname, deriving from the medieval town famous for its castle. OE: wring "weir" or "river-dam" + wic "dwelling" and "village." Its use has probably been influenced by the fame of the medieval Earls of Warwick, in particular Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick (1428-71), known as "Warwick the Kingmaker." Guy of Warwick was a Robin Hood-like legendary hero of popular romance in the medieval and early modern period. 17th C. Bearers: Warwick Davis (b. 1970), the British actor.

Washington c~ English surname. OE: Wassa (see Wace) + tun. Though found since the seventeenth century, most use has been from the eighteenth in honor of George Washington (1732-99), first president of America. Bearers: Washington Irving (1783-1859), the American writer.

Water cc Y One of the four classic elements, the word is etymologically related to "wet," "otter," "whisky" and "winter," Russian vodka "water," and Latin unda "wave," as well as the name of the Greek sea monster the Hydra and the ancient English God Wade. Water is a purifier and associated with emotion, intuition, femininity, and the soul. In medieval times, evidence suggests that WALTER was pronounced like "water," and Water is found as a variant of Walter in the records into at least the eighteenth century, and perhaps even in the nineteenth.

Waveney c~ Y The name of an English river in East Anglia. OE: wagen "quagmire" + ea "river"-a reference to the marshy landscape of the East Anglian fens through which it flows. 19th C.

Wax c~ y Wax is a substance produced by bees to make the honeycomb of their hive. It has been employed since ancient times in a variety of uses. Ancient sculptors in bronze used it in the making of their casts, Romans used it for writing tablets-and of course, wax is used for candles. The word is Germanic in origin and its ultimate source is believed to be the Indo-

Germanic root *weg- "to weave." The verb "wax" meaning "to grow" and used largely of the moon-is from a different root meaning "to increase." The surname Wax arose metonymically from someone who sold wax. 19th C.

Wayac Cherokee: waya "wolf" and "coyote."

Wayland cc The legendary Wayland the Smith is an important figure in English folklore. Also known as Weyland and Weland, he is the son of Wade and almost certainly the Anglo-Saxon God of smiths, equivalent of the Roman Vulcan and Celtic Gofannon. Other forms of his names include the Norse Volundr and Old German Wiolant. The exact meaning isn't clear; the first element may be OG: wal "death" and "slaughter" or a word cognate with ON: vel "artifice," "craft," and "device"-connected to both English "wily" and the obsolete wiel "sorcery" and "magic." The second element is OG: nan6- "courage" and "venture." There is some evidence to suggest the name was used as a personal name in the early Middle Ages, though the surname is usually derived from the Wayland Hundred, a district in Norfolk originally called Wanelunt or Waneland. OE: wana "deficient" + land "land." 17th C. Var: Waylon.

Wayne c? A variant of the surname Wain. OE: wren "cart"-used metonymically for a carter, a Cartwright, or someone who lived near the sign of a carter or Cartwright. It was first used in America in honor of Anthony Wayne (1745- 96), a revolutionary general and statesman known as "Mad Anthony." Its wider use in the ESW has been influenced by the American actor John Wayne (1907-79).

Wear c~ 2 The Northumbrian river, which flows through the medieval city of Durham. It derives from its Celtic name VEDRA.

Weaver c~ Y English surname. OE: wefan "to weave"-a verb used figuratively for centuries. Weaving is particularly associated with Witchcraft; the metaphor of a Witch weaving a spell dates to at least the Middle Ages. Weaver is also the name of a river in Cheshire. ON: veifa "to

wave" or "to swing." This became "waive" in English, a now obsolete word replaced by "weave." 18th C.

Web c~ Y Old English: web "woven fabric." It has meant "cobweb" since the thirteenth century. The surname Webb derives from OE: webba c and webbe Y "weaver." 17th C. Var: Webb, Webbe.

Webber c English surname. ME: webber "weaver" < web "to weave" < OE: web "woven fabric." 17th C.

Webster 2 English surname. OE: webbestre "female weaver." 17th C.

Wednesday 2 g Wednesday was named after Woden the Anglo-Saxon equivalent of ODIN. The Latin days of the week which date to the late Roman Empire were named after the Roman planets, which in turn were named after Roman Gods. To the Romans, Wednesday was dies Mercurii, and the link between Mercury and Odin seems to date back to at least the first century CE, when Tacitus comments that the Germanic people worshipped Mercury above all other deities, though he does not mention Odin by name. These deities were "translated" into their Germanic counterparts at a very early date, quite possibly pre-Christian. In the most familiar version of the nursery rhyme "Monday's Child," first recorded in the nineteenth century, the child born on a Wednesday is said to be "full of woe." In other versions, however, this fate is reserved for Friday's child, and Wednesday's becomes loving and giving. Bearers: Wednesday Addams, the funereal daughter in the American sitcom The Addams Family (1964-66).

Wen y Chinese name. Mand: wen "veins in jade," "multicolored clouds"; wen "kiss."

Wenceslas cc A name made famous by the Yuletide carol. Wenceslas is the Latinized form of the Czech name Vaclav Cz: ventie "greater" + slav "glory." It was a name borne by three dukes of Bohemia, including the "Good King" who looked out on the feast of Stephen. 17th C.

Wendelne ? Feminine form of Old German Wendelin, a diminutive of Wendel (see Vandal). 19th C. The variant Wendoline shows influence from GWENDOLINE, and it may be that it was sometimes used as a variant of Gwendoline rather than an adoption of the German name. Var: Wen

dolene, Wendelene.'There is a character called Wendolene in Wallace and Gromit A Close Shave (1995).

Wendy ? Wendy may have been in modest use as a petform of GWENDA and GWENDOLINE in the nineteenth century, but it is most associated with J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan (1904).The little daughter of Barrie's friend W. E. Henley used to call him "Friendly-Wendy." Sadly, she died very young; Barrie used "Wendy" in his play as a tribute to her. 20th C.

Wenhaf y Welsh: gwen + haf"summer." 20th C.

Wenna 2 The name of not one but two of Cornwall's many obscure fifth-century saints. Cognate with GWEN. 19th C. Var: Wena.

West 2 The direction West is associated with Water and autumn. It is the direction of the setting sun and the evening, and is thus associated with old age and dying.'The expression "to go west"-meaning "to die"-has been used since at least the fifteenth century. In Europe, the West is also associated with the Gods and the Otherworld; the Island of the Hesperides, where grew the famous apples, lay to the West. To the people of the ancient Mediterranean, what lay beyond the Pillars of Hercules was the great unknown, and that gave it supernatural associations. The surname West was simply bestowed upon someone who came from the West. 16th C.

Weston c? English surname, taken from any one of the places called Weston in England. OE: west "west" + tun. 16th C.

Wharfe c? Y The name of a river in Yorkshire. Its name in Roman times was almost certainly VERBEIA. Also an English surname. OE: hwerf"wharf."

19th C.

Whinstone e The name given to certain hard and darkcolored rocks, such as basalt and chert, and used figuratively for anything extremely hard and tough.'The earlier form was *whin*, a word of unknown origin used in the North of England and Scotland.'The surname Whinstone is a variant of WINSTON. 19th C.

Whisper 2 c~ The Old English word *hwisprian* was only found in Northumberland. Meaning "to speak softly under one's breath," whispering is associated with secrecy and has also been used to mean "to bring away by whispering." It is used too to describe a sound akin to whispering, such as the sound of the wind in the leaves of a tree. 20th C.

White 5' 2 White is symbolic of the light, the polar opposite of black and darkness, and thus in Western thought, it is also symbolic of goodness. Pure and clean, it is unsurprising that it is also associated with purity and cleanliness-physical, spiritual, and moral-as well as with innocence, honesty, and simplicity. In Paganism, it is most associated with Imbolg and the Goddess Brigid, and is sometimes used instead of purple to represent Spirit. White is also associated with the moon.'The English surname derives from OE: *hwit* "white," used in part as a nickname for someone fair-haired, but also encountered as the personal name *Hwita*, which arose as a short form of names beginning with the element, such as *Hwitraed* < *hwat* + *reed* "counsel" and "advice." White and Wite are also used as variant forms of the name of the female saint usually known as Whyte, a very shadowy figure about whom little is known-but with a sacred well in the ancient village of Whitchurch in Dorset, and numerous other places called Whitchurch across England. It is tempting to see her as a Goddess. Her name is usually Latinized as *Candida*-and she shouldn't be mixed up with the firstcentury Italian saint of the name. 17th C.

Whitney Y c' English surname, from Whitney in Hereford and Worcester. OE: *hwit*"white"+ *eg* "island." It is possible the first element is the name

Hwita (see White). 17th C. Bearers: Whitney Willard Straight (1912-79); Whitney Moore Young, Jr. (1921-71), the American civil rights activist; Whitney Houston (b. 1963), American singer.

Wilberforce G" English surname. It derives from Wilberfoss in Yorkshire. OE: Wilburh (see Wilbur) + foss ditch." Much of its use since the nineteenth century has been in honor of William Wilberforce (1759-1833), the British politician and philanthropist, who was instrumental in ending the slave trade.

Wilbert 5' Old English: will "will" and "determination" + beorht. It survived the Norman Conquest long enough to give rise to the surname Wilbert. Revived 19th C. Bearers: Wilbert Awdry (1911-97), better known as the Rev. W. Awdry, the originator of The Railway Series (1945-).

Wilbeth Y A very obscure German saint also called Wilbet. In the fourteenth century, she was linked with St. Einbeth and St. Worbet. They were venerated as the "Three Virgins"

and dubbed the Beten-highly suggestive of the survival of a Triple Goddess cult. The etymology is unknown. 20th C.

Wilbur a' Y English surname. OE: wilde "wild" + bar "boar" or OE: Wilburh, a female personal name < will "will" and "determination" + burh "fortress." In nineteenth-century America, it was used in honor of the Quaker John Wilbur (1774-1856). Bearers: Wilbur Smith (b. 1933), the British novelist; Wilbur "some pig," the main animal character of E. B. White's Charlotte's Web (1952).

Wild c' Y The earliest meaning of the adjective "wild" meant "living in a state of nature" and "not tame." It has been used of uncultivated and uninhabited land since at least the ninth century, and acquired the sense of being "uncivilized," "savage," and "not accepting/resisting the constituted government" in the fourteenth. The surname arose in relation both to men

whose personalities were "wild" and those who lived "in the wild." Var: Wilde, Wylde. 16th C.

Wilfred e Old English: will "will" and "determination" + fril "peace." Revived 19th C. Var: Wilfrid. Bearers: Wilfred Owen (1893-1918), an English war poet; Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe, the hero of Scott's Ivanhoe (1819).

Wilhelmina Y Feminine form of WILLIAM. 18th C. Dim: WILMA, MINA. It: Guglielma, Gulielma.

William 5 Old German: Willahelm-vi/ja "will" + helm "helmet." It was introduced to Britain by the Normans and rapidly became one of the most quintessential of English first names. In the Middle Ages, the usual short form was Will, with diminutive forms such as Wilkin, Wilet, and Wilcock. Others arose in the early modern period such as Bill, Billie, Billy, Willie, and Willy-although the later two are seldom used in Britain anymore, as they are mild slang for the penis. William has been equally popular elsewhere in the world. It: Guglielmo, Occitan: Guilhem, Fr: Guillaume, Cat: Guillem, Sp: Guillermo, Breton: Gwilherm, W: Gwilym, Mi'kmaq: Sulian, Sc Ga: Uilleam, Jr Ga: Uilliam, Uiliam, Cz: Vilem, Fin: Viljami, Ville, Vilho, Hun: Vilmos, Get, Pol: Wilhelm, Dut: Willem, Maori: Wiremu. Bearers: William Shakespeare (1564-1617); William Blake (1757-1827), the English poet, artist and Chosen Chief of the Ancient Druid Order; William Butler Yeats (1865-1939), the Irish poet, strongly influenced by myths, folklore, mysticism, and magic; William Henry Paynter (1901-76), the English folklorist, who specialized in stories concerning Witches and cunning folk; William Price (1800-93), a Welsh Druid and free-thinker.

Willoughby e Y English surname, derived from one of the places of the name. OE: welig "willow" + ON: by "farmstead" or "settlement," or OE: beag "circle." 16th C. Bearers: John Willoughby in Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility (1811), invariably referred to as Willoughby.

Willow 2 One of the most delightful sights of spring is a row of willow trees on the bank of a river just coming into leaf-a pure, living, respiring green.'The Saille of the Ogham, willow is a tree associated with the moon, with intuition, dreams, visions, and inspiration. OE: welig "willow" < PIE: *wei "to bend" and "to twist," from which also evolved L: vitis "vine." 19th C. Bearers: Willow Macgregor, the seductive barmaid in the British film *The Wicker Man* (1973); Willow Rosenberg, a Witch in the American television drama *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003).

Willowherb Y The willowherbs are generally regarded as lowly weeds, but are often attractive flowering plants with pink or purple flowers, popular with bees and butterflies. English: willow + herb.

Wilma y Short form of WILHELMINA.19th C. Bearers: Wilma Flintstone of the American cartoon series *The Flintstones* (1960-66).

Wilmer ' Y Old English: will "will" and "determination" + mcer "famous." As a given name, it didn't survive the Middle Ages, but the surname was used as a first name from the sixteenth century.

Wilmot Y c' Medieval diminutive of WILLIAM. Used as a girl's name as well as a boy's in the Middle Ages. By the sixteenth century, Wilmot was principally feminine.'The surname deriving from it is responsible for its return to use as a boy's name since the nineteenth century or so.

Wind c? Y Cognate with the Sanskrit vata, Latin ventus, and Welsh gwynt, the pronunciation ought to be "wind," rhyming with "kind," but became "wind" in polite society in the eighteenth century.'The surname arose as a nickname for someone who was "swift as the wind." 17th C. Var: Wynde, Winde.

Windflower Y A name of the anemone-the flower into which Adonis was turned after being killed by a boar. A simple combination of WIND and FLOWER.

Windrush e An English river in the Cotswolds, which flows through the famous village of Bourton-on-the-Water. It is also known as the Wainrush. In the Domesday Book it was recorded as Wenric, indicating a Celtic origin. The first element is cognate with Welsh gwyn, the second is uncertain, but there are several plausible options such as CC: *r(o) us-(j)o- "shake"; *reg-o- "extend"; *regwu- "frost"; *reu-sman "onrush" and *ruxto- "roar."

Winifred ? The legend of St. Winifred (often spelled Winefride) smacks of a Pagan deity being Christianized almost more than any other—a virgin beheaded by a frenzied would-be lover, brought back to life by a saintly uncle. A spring burst forth on the spot where her head fell to the ground. Moreover, Winifred is associated with more than one spring or well, which further hints that she was once a Pagan deity. The Welsh form of her name is Gwenfrewi or Gwenfrewy, which is usually derived from W: gwyn + OE: frio "peace." This is highly unlikely, but the -fred ending is remarkably similar to Ffraid, the Welsh form of BRIDGET. What Winifred, with her strong association with wells, may really represent, therefore, is a survival of the cult of the great Brythonic Goddess BRIGANTIA. It is perfectly plausible that she acquired the epithet gwyn-becoming "Blessed Brigantia"—which over time became actually prefixed to her name. In Welsh, the suffix -wy is also common, especially as an appendage to names with associations with water, and it is not difficult to see how it might become attached, or even simply be respelled, by scribes struggling to make sense of her name. But there is another intriguing possibility. The -frewi of her name might originally have been ferwi, altered by error or metathesis, in which case it would derive from the same source as W: berwi "to bubble," from which the name of the Celtic God BERW derives. This is a very appropriate name, as Winifred's principal well at Holywell in North Wales does indeed bubble. The similarity of Berw to Beuno is also striking. Moreover, Berw is known to be associated with a Goddess. She is called Damona at one shrine and Bormanna at another, and this latter one sets the precedent of the proto-Celtic *berw-f- being used within the name of a Goddess. It is highly plausible that a divine pair presided at Holywell, who became St. Winifred

and St. Beuno after Christianity took over. 13th C. Revived 19th C. Dim: Winnie, FREDA, FREDDY. Bearers: Winifred Holtby (1898- 1935), the British novelist; Winifred Forsyte, a character in Galsworthy's Forsyte saga (1906-21); Winifred "Fred" Burkle of the American television series Angel (1999-2004); Winnie the Witch (1987-97)-Valerie Thomas's series of children's books.

Winona Y Dakota: winuna "first-born daughter"-cognate with Lakota: wiv7Yar7 "woman." It is also the name of more than one American city. It first appeared in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Hiawatha (1855) as Wenonah. 19th C. Var: Wynona. Bearers: Winona Rider (b. 1971), the American actress-who was named after the city of Winona in Minnesota.

Winston c' Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874-1965) is one of the most famous Englishmen who has ever lived. The son of the wealthy American beauty Jennie Jerome and Lord Randolph Churchill, younger son of the Duke of Marlborough, Churchill was in politics for decades before becoming Prime Minister in 1940. Winston had been a family name in the Spencer Churchill family for centuries. It was an adoption of a surname, deriving either from the Old English name Wynstan-wynn "joy" + stan "stone" or Winston in Gloucestershire-Wine (OE: wine "friend," used as a personal name) + tun. The name came into general use in the mid-twentieth century in Winston Churchill's honor.

Winter Y e The ultimate source of the word "winter" is the same PIE root which gives "wet," "water," and "otter." Winter is found as the name of the fourth and coldest season from the ninth century. In medieval times wall paintings were common and allegorical themes, such as those showing the seasons, were popular. Winter, it seems, was always depicted with a miserable looking face and thus it became a nickname for someone with a gloomy expression. The surname derives from this use. Father Winter or Old Man Winter are often seen as winter's personification, but are sometimes identified with both Father Christmas and Odin. 16th C. Var: Wynter.

Wintergreen e Y The name Wintergreen has been applied to numerous plants which keep their leaves over the winter but in particular is now used for *Pyrola minor* which grows in woods with drooping white flowers, and the spring wintergreen, a similar North American plant. It is ruled by Saturn and Water. Magically, wintergreen is associated with protection, healing, and the breaking of curses. It is an old folk-custom to place sprigs under the pillows of children in order to protect them and bring them good luck in life. In

folk-remedies, wintergreen was used to heal wounds and ulcers internally and externally.

Wisdom Y English surname. OE: wisdom-used to mean the quality or character of being wise since at least the early tenth century. It first appeared as a given name in the seventeenth century. This was probably an adoption of the surname, but may represent Puritans using it in the same way they used other abstract nouns such as "mercy" and "prudence".

Wise 'y English surname. OE: wis "wise" < PIE: *weid "to see." 17th C.

Wishmay Y A nineteenth-century English translation of the ON: oskmcer "valkyrie" < osk "wish" + mcer "maiden"; the English "may"-meaning "maiden"-is an archaic word deriving from mcege.

Wisp 2 e The origin of the English word "wisp" is uncertain. Its earliest recorded meaning is "bunch" or "small bundle" (of hay, etc.). It was also used of a twisted bundle of hay or straw used for burning as a torch, which is perhaps how it came to be used to describe a marsh-fire as a "will-o'-the-wisp." Originally a will-o'-the-wisp was regarded as a thing that deluded people or led them astray, rather than an otherworldly creature. Willo the Wisp (1981) was a British animated children's series narrated by Kenneth Williams.

Wisteria Y The name of the attractive and fragrant climbing plant. A mature specimen trained on a wall or pergola-or even a tree-is an impressive and

ambrosial delight when in full bloom in May and June. A native of China, it was introduced to the West in the early nineteenth century and was named after the American anatomist Caspar Wistar, whose name probably derives from Ger: westlknder "westerner." The wisteria is a symbol of devotion, constancy, and fidelity. 20th C.

Wit e Y The English "wit," used to mean the ability to think, reason, and understand, first occurs in the pages of the Old English epic Beowulf, written down c. 1000. The surname is simply a variant of WHITE. Wit is also a Thai boy's name meaning "science." 17th C. Var: Witt. Witty-the adjective derived from the English, as well as a surname from OE: witig "sagacious"-is also in use.

Witch Y c Old English: wicca ' and wicce Y both meant Witch. OE: wiccian "to bewitch"-though the ultimate etymology is still hotly debated. It is cognate with OG: wikken and wicken, but the roots of these are also obscure and there are a number of possibilities. The most tempting is Gothic: weihs "sacred" and weihian "to consecrate"-it being noted that the Pagan priests might well have been regarded as magicians to incoming Christianity. This ultimately derives from PIE: *weik- "to separate" and "divide," perhaps developing into its later meanings through the practice of divination by casting lots. It is known this took place in Germany in the Roman period. The surname Witch is a variant of WYCH. 19th C.

Witchen ? Old name for the rowan or wych elm.

Witcher (' Y English surname, of more than one source. OE: hwicce "chest" and "box"-used metonymically for someone who made them; OE: wic "village"-i.e. someone who dwelt in a village; OE: wice/wic "wych elm"-referring to someone who dwelt near some wych elm trees. 19th C.

Witchery Y e Old name for Witchcraft, referring specifically to the use, practice, and deeds of the Craft. Also used figuratively of the power to fascinate and charm.

Wizard e The word wizard derives from the late Middle English wysard- WISE + suffix -ard, which derives from OG: hart "hardy," used in a number of personal names, not least Wizard's exact cognate GUISCARD. This is the source of the surname Wizard. The suffix -ard was used in Middle High German and Dutch to form nouns, usually pejorative-such as "bastard" and "coward." It was taken up in English to create similar nouns, often with the sense of doing something to excess, or discredibly, such as "drunkard" and "sluggard." The first use of "wizard," in the fifteenth century, therefore, was "philosopher" or "sage"-but with a contemptuous edge. By the sixteenth century, it had come to mean a man (and occasionally a woman) adept in "occult arts." In the mid-twentieth century, there was a period when it was used in Britain as a slang term meaning "excellent," but this is now dated. 20th C. Var: Wysard, Wyzard.

Wolf c~ The wolf is a creature both revered and maligned. It is one of the animals which most epitomize the wild and the untamed, wintertime, and vast, ancient forests. One of the great hunters and path-finders, it is fierce and resilient. But wolves are also associated with learning, and are considered great teachers by some Native American peoples. Although Old English Wulf is recorded as a given name in Saxon times, the surname derives from the use of wulf as a

nickname in the Middle Ages. 16th C. Var: Wolfe, Woolf, Woolfe

Wolfram c~ ? English surname, deriving from Old English girl's name Wulfrtm-wuf+ run "whisper," "secret," and "rune." Found bestowed on boys from the sixteenth century, by which time Wulfrun itself was long obsolete. The identical-looking Old German male name has a different origin-wof+ hraben "raven." Intriguingly, the mythical Danish walravn (see Waleran) is sometimes described as half-wolf and half-raven. This was the name of a seventh-century Frankish saint, usually called Wulfram. Bearers: Wolfram von Eschenbach (c. 1170-c. 1220), a German poet famed for his Arthurian Romances Parzifal and Titurel.

Wood c~ Woods and forests in the past were highly valued places, sources for firewood, building materials, foraging, and hunting. Many were designated "royal forests," where only the king and his nobles could hunt and woe betide those commoners who took it upon themselves to poach there. Gods of woodland include Pan, Silvanus, and Herne. The surname Wood derives straight from OE: wudu "a wood" and was used of someone who lived in or by a wood. 17th C.

Woodrow cc English surname. OE: wudu "wood" + raw "row," referring to a row of cottages in a wood. 18th C. Bearers (Thomas) Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924), the American President. Dim: WOODY.

Woodruff d' 2 Woodruff, often called sweet woodruff, is a low-growing herb found in woodland. OE: wudu "wood" + rofe a word of unknown meaning. Magically, woodruff is associated with protection, to attract money and bring about victory. It is ruled by Mars and Fire, and is used in herbal medicine for various conditions, including insomnia and jaundice. Woodruff symbolizes humility.'The surname Woodruff derived as a nickname for someone who lived where woodruff grew, or used woodruff as a sort of perfume, although there are examples of what would appear to be Woodruff used as a girl's name in medieval times. 17th C.

Woody The English adjective "woody" has been in use since the fourteenth century, at first used to describe an area covered by trees; the meaning "having the characteristics of wood" dates only to the sixteenth. There is also a rare surname, which is responsible for Woody's first appearances as a given name in the eighteenth century.'This has been compounded by its use as a pet-form of names such as WOOD ROW, as well as a nickname-often for someone with the surname WOOD.

World Y Deriving ultimately from a root with the meaning "age" or "life of man" in the Germanic languages, "world" was originally used of the earthly state of human existence, as opposed to Heaven and Hell, though it has been used to refer to the planet since Anglo-Saxon times. 19th C.

Wrath c~ Y Meaning "vehement anger," the English "wrath" has seen use as a name since the seventeenth century, quite probably by Puritans making reference to their cheerful notion of "the wrath of God." The surname Wrath is from the same source-OE: wra6 "angry" and "fierce." Var: Wroth.

Wren ? a Old English: wrenna and werna "wren," which date back to the early eighth century. The tiny wren plays an important role in English folklore. It was regarded in Ireland as the magus avium-"magician of the birds"-and the Druids considered it a bird of prophecy. With the coming of Christianity, it was requisitioned by the Church and became known as God's bird and Our Lady's hen. It has long been the superstition that harm befell anyone who hurt the wren. Despite this, the Wren Hunt is an ancient tradition in various parts of Europe including Britain during the "Twelve Days of Christmas," which may be regarded as a sacrifice of this otherwise sacred bird at this significant time of year. It has been suggested that the Wren Hunt symbolizes the death of the dark and the return of the light which is celebrated at the Solstice. The village of Wrensthorpe in Yorkshire derives not from the name of the bird but from the Old English girl's name Wifrun-wif "woman" and "wife" + run "whisper," "secret," and "rune." The name was found in the Middle Ages as Wyverun, which could also perhaps be spelled WYVERN, but it died

out early. The surname Wren is taken from the name of the bird and was originally a nickname. 17th C.

Wulfric c~ Old English: wuf + ric. The name of an eleventh-century Earl of Mercia and a twelfth-century saint. Revived 19th C. Var: Ulric, Ulrick.

Wyatt c~ English surname, deriving from Guyot-a medieval pet-form of GUY. 16th C. Bearers: Wyatt Earp (1848- 1929), the American lawman; Wyatt Halliwell a character in the American television drama Charmed (1998-2006).

Wych Y Usually now combined with other tree names as in wych elm and witch hazel. OE: wice and wic "wych elm" < Old Teutonic: *wik- "to bend"- a reference to their flexibility. The English surname Wych derives partly from "wych," and partly from OE: wic "dwelling-place" and "village" < L: vicus "village." 19th C.

Wynn An English and Welsh surname. The English derives from OE: wine "friend," and the Welsh from gwyn. Both were used as given names and nicknames in the medieval period. 16th C. Var: Wynne. W: Wyn.

Wystan a Old English: Wigstan-wig "battle" + stan "stone." The name of a ninth-century king of Mercia, murdered as a boy and later revered as a saint. Revived 19th C. Bearers: Wystan Hugh Auden (1907-73), the poet-better known as W. H. Auden.

Wyvern Gc Y The name of a mythological creature found in heraldry. It was depicted as a winged dragon with feet like an eagle and a serpent-like barbed tail. ME: wyver "viper" < L. vipera "viper." 19th C. Var: Wivern.

Xanthe Y A Homeric epithet of Demeter, Xanthe is also another name for Epione, the wife of the healing God, Asclepius. In some texts, it is also used as an alternative form of Xantho, the name of a sea-nymph. In ancient times, it was also used as the name of a pale-colored stone. Gr: xanthos "yellow." This is used for all shades of yellow, from flaxen to gold to sandy-brown. It was (and is) used for people with blond hair, but also of bay and chestnut horses. The name featured in *A Question* (1891), a novel by the Egyptologist and author George Ebers, which inspired *Xanthe and Phaon* (1883), a painting by his friend Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema. 19th C. Var: Xanthia, Zanthe, Zanthia.

Xanthias e A common name in ancient times, Xanthias was the name of a number of characters in plays by the fifth-century BCE Athenian comic playwright Aristophanes, such as the quick-witted slave in *The Frogs* (405 BCE). Gr: xanthos "yellow." 20th C.

Xanthippe Y The name of the wife of the fifth-century BCE Greek philosopher Socrates. In the past, she was regarded as a shrew, and in Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, Petruchio says of Katherina that she is "as Socrates's Xanthippe or a worse." Gr: xanthos "yellow" + hippos "horse." 19th C.

Xanthus c~ The name of numerous characters in Greek mythology, such as a son of Pan and the lover of Alcinoë. It was also the name of the horses of Achilles, Hector, and Diomedes. Gr: xanthos "yellow." 19th C. Bearers: Xanthus Russell Smith (1839-1929), the American artist.

Xavier c~ Originally a Roman Catholic name bestowed in honor of the Spanish Jesuit missionary St. Francis Xavier (1506-52). Xavier-also Javier-is the name of the place where he was born. It is the Spanish form of Basque Etxaberri, from etxe "(country) house" + berri "new"-Xavier as a boy's name has returned to Basque as Xabier. 18th C. Var: Zavier. Fem: Xaviera.

Xenia Y Greek: xenia "hospitality"-particularly towards people far from home. It was an important concept in Ancient Greece, as well in many

other parts of the world. Xenia was also an epithet of Athene in her guise as a protectress of guests and strangers, and there is a fifth-century saint of the name celebrated in the Orthodox Church, who may well be simply a canonization of the Goddess. The name became particularly established in Russia; its use by the Romanovs (the only sister of Tsar Nicholas II was called Xenia) is probably responsible for the name being taken up outside Russia and the Ukraine since the nineteenth century. Var: Ksenia, Kseniya, Kseniya. Ukr: Oxana, Oksana.

Xenophon e The name of a famous Greek historian who is particularly remembered for the record he made of the Peloponnesian War. Gr: xenos "stranger," "guest," or "foreign" + phone "sound" or "voice." 18th C. Xenon-also from xenos and Latinized as Xeno, but now best known as a chemical element-was also used as a name in ancient times.

Xerxes c~ The name of two fifth-century BCE kings of Persia. It is the Greek form of the Old Persian name Xsayarsa, sometimes written as Khsayarsha. The Greek historian Herodotus said the name meant "warrior," but modern scholars believe a better translation is "hero among heroes." 17th C.

Xia 2 Chinese. Mand: xid "red clouds"-an allusion to the red sky at sunset and sunrise; xik "summer."

Xiaoli 2 Chinese name. Mand: xiko "night," "raw silk," "heaven," and "elf"; xiao "dawn" + and li "jasmine."

Ximena Y A Medieval Spanish form of SIMONE, used in Spain from the tenth century, though largely replaced by

Jimena. It was the name of the wife of the legendary Spanish hero El Cid (c. 1040-99). 19th C.

Xin a Y Chinese name. Mand: xin "heart," "happy," "new," "dawn," "fragrant"; xin "true" or "flame."

Xiphias cc The name given in medieval times to a swordshaped comet. It used to be the name of a constellation in the Southern Hemisphere now

called Dorado or "the SwordFish," and is still used poetically for a swordfish, as well as being its scientific name. Gr: xiphos "sword."

Xiuhcoatl e Y Mexican name. In Nahuatl mythology, Xiuhcoatl is the fire serpent spirit of the fire God Xiuhtecuhtli. Nahuatl: xiuh "turquoise" + coatl "snake."

Xochitl 2 Mexican name. Nahuatl: xochitl "flower."

Xylina y Greek: xulinos "made of wood" and "wooden" < xulon "wood," "timber," and "tree"; it was also used to mean "wooden shrine." In the nineteenth century, Xylina was used as the name of a genus of moth. 20th C.

Yaa y Ghanaian name. Signifies "born on a Thursday" in Twi.

Yaghuth c? Arabic: yaghuth "he helps." Yaghuth is the name of a God mentioned in the Qu'ran, and it may have been the inspiration for the planet Yuggoth in H. P. Lovecraft's Cthulhu mythos.

Yahweh e The name of the God of the Israelites, who has since appropriated the word "god" and become the God for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Early Jewish manuscripts do not contain what are known as vocalizations (i.e. vowels), and as the name of Yahweh was-and still is-considered too sacred (and magical) by Jews to be spoken, the exact interpretation of the letters concerned (namely YHWH) remains contentious. Yahweh was first proposed by a Hebrew scholar in the nineteenth century. Previously it was rendered as Iehovah and Jehovah; the latter remains the best-known version. It is popularly derived from Heb: hayah "to be" but this isn't all that tenable. It is far more likely, if genuinely Hebrew in origin, to be from the root hawah "to cause to fall," and "to cast down (enemies, etc.)." Other words deriving from this root include howak "disaster." It is, however, quite possible the name is not of Hebrew origin. There is an outside chance that it even came from PIE: *deyw-o-. More

likely, however, is that it originated in Egypt-and the Egyptian Moon God Ih or Job is a good candidate. Yahweh has no (surviving) moon attributes-but that is hardly surprising given the fact he has been treated as "the one and only" God since before the time the Old Testament was written down, allowing plenty of time for this aspect to be conveniently forgotten. Some Christians criticize Islam for its alleged worship of the so-called "moon God" Allah-but Allah means simply "the God." There would be a certain irony if it were Yahweh who was originally a God of the moon. Both Yahweh and Jehovah are encountered as given names from the mid-twentieth century.

Yalda Y Persian name. Shabe Yalda is an Iranian festival originally celebrated on the Winter Solstice. Despite its similar appearance to the English Yule, Yalda actually derives from a Syriac word meaning "birth"

and was introduced into Iran in the third or fourth century-though whether by Pagans celebrating the feast of Sol Invictus or Christians celebrating Christmas is unknown. It is usually assumed to be the latter, but the former is just as plausible. 19th C.

Yale c? The yale-also known as a centicore-is a mythical beast, an antelope-like creature with large horns. The Latin name for the creature was eale, and it may ultimately derive from the Hebrew JAEL. It has been known since Roman times and was used as a supporter for the arms of- among others Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of King Henry VII. Yales can be seen on the gateways of two Cambridge colleges she founded- Christ's and St. John's. A yale is also depicted on the official banner of the President of Yale University, which takes its name from its founder, Elihu Yale. His surname derives from W: idl "fertile upland." 19th C.

Yana Y Yana is principally used in Russia as a variant or short form of IVANA, but it also occurs elsewhere in the Slavic world. The area around the Yana River-also in Russia-is the site of the oldest-known human habitation in the Arctic, with finds dating back thirty thousand years. Yana is also a term found in Buddhism and Hinduism, from San: yana "vehicle." It refers to the spiritual journey taken through life, specifically the different spiritual practices or paths an individual may engage in. Yana is also the name of an extinct Native American tribe of northern California and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Their name derives from Yana: ya- "people." Yana also means "black" in Quechua. 19th C.

Yancy cc Y American surname. Its origins are very obscure. The Yancy family claim that the name is a corruption of Nanney, a rare Welsh surname. The most likely explanation, however, is that it is an Anglicized form of the Dutch surname Jantje-itself originally a pet-form of JOHN. Much twentieth-century use derives from the American television series Yancy Derringer (1958-59). 19th C.

Yanis c? Usual French form of Giannis, Yiannis, and Yannis-Modern Greek forms of JOHN. The naming trend in France from the later part of the twentieth century has been to adopt names from abroad-and Yanis is one of the most popular at present. Its similarity to YANNICK probably played a part in its adoption. It has since spread to the ESW.

Yannick cc Breton pet-form of Yann (the Breton form of JOHN), used as an independent name across France in the twentieth century. Bearers: Yannick Dalmas (b. 1961), the Formula One racing driver; Yannick Noah (b. 1960), the tennis player.

Yao a' 2 Chinese name. Mand: yao "goblin," "Witch," "enchanting" and "phantom"; yao "mother-of-pearl" and "jade"; ydo "dart" and "deep"; yao "brilliant" and "glorious." The mythical, wise Emperor Yao is said to have ruled China in the third millennium BCE. Var: Yao Yao.

Yarikh G~ The Canaanite God of the moon, who may have given his name to JERICHO. Canaanite: yareah "moon." He is also considered the God of dew, responsible for scattering it each night-a vital source of water in the and deserts of Canaan.'The Phoenicians called him Yarkhibol. Var: Jarih, Jarah,Jorah.

Yarrow e ? Yarrow is a herb valued for its many healing properties, and has many alternative names-allheal, nosebleed, staunchwort, and soldier's woundwort are just a few. In France it is still called the carpenters' herb (herbe aux charpentiers) because of its efficacy in healing wounds made by tools. According to legend, it sprang from rust scraped from Achilles's spear to heal the wound of Telephus, hence its botanical name-Achillea. Yarrow has a myriad of uses in herbal medicine, such as stopping bleeding, easing hayfever, and lowering high blood pressure. In the Middle Ages, Witches were widely believed to use yarrow in their spells, and in folklore it was believed that if you placed a yarrow sachet under your pillow, you would dream of your true love. Ruled by Venus and Water, it is still used in spells relating to courage and love, and to enhance psychic ability.'The surname Yarrow comes from the River Yarrow in Lancashire or Yarrow Water in Scotland.'The origin of the latter is Sc Ga: garbh "rough," while the former is probably from W: garw, its cognate. 18th C.

Yashpal a' Indian name. San: yasha "fame" + pala "protector."

Yasmin Y Arabic: yas(a)min "jasmine." Yasmin became known in the West through James Elroy Flecker's play Hassan (1922). Var: Yasmine, Yasmeen. Bearers: Yasmine Galernorn (b. 1961), the American writer of Pagan-inspired fantasy, as well as non-fiction Pagan books.

Yasushi a Japanese name Yasushi "quiet," "silent," and "calm."

Yaw cc Ghanaian name, signifying "born on a Thursday" in Twi.

Yayoi Y Japanese-yayoi "the spring," often translated as "March" < ya "more and more" + yoi "life" "spring." Yayoi is also a district of Tokyo. Archaeological discoveries there led to the name being given to a distinctive type of pottery and its era, the Yayoi period (c. 500 BCE-300 CE).

Yesenia ? A name popularized in Latin America by the 1971 Mexican film Yesenia, in which Yesenia was a gypsy girl. The story was made into a soap opera in the 1980s, which was also aired in the United States and led to the name's general usage. The inspiration behind its coinage was probably the South American plant JESSENIA. Var: Yessenia, Jesenia, Llesenia.

Yeshe a' Y Tibetan name ye shes "wisdom."

Yeshua Aramaic form of JOSHUA. Late 20th C. A son of the Irish singer Sinead O'Connor, born in 2006, is called Yeshua.

Yew G~ Y The yew tree is one of the most symbolic trees in Western tradition, and has long been considered sacred. Ancient yew trees are often a marker for places of Pagan religious sites and survive particularly where Christian churches have been built on the site of Pagan worship. As a slow-growing and exceptionally long-lived evergreen, it has long been a symbol of eternal life and rebirth. The Ancient Celts made a deadly poison from the seeds of the yew, and more than one Celtic leader is known to have committed suicide using it. Its wood was also used for making bows. Although the Yggdrasil of Norse and German tradition is usually believed to be an ash tree, it is sometimes said to be a yew. OE: iw and eow < Old Teutonic: *ihwaz-cognate with CC: *yewo-.19th C.

Yggdrasil c? Y The name of the "World Tree" of Norse mythology, which binds all worlds together. It is usually said to be the ash. At its root is a fountain with miraculous powers, and an eagle sits in its branches, which drip honey. ON: YGGR + drasill "horse." Odin sacrificed himself by hanging in a tree (he is one of those associated with the Hanged Man major

arcana tarot card), and so many interpret the "horse" to be an allusion to the gallows.

Yggr cc Old Norse: yggr "terror." A name of Odin.

Yildiz Y Turkish name-y ldzz "star."

Ymir cc In Norse mythology, Ymir was the father of the frost giants, himself conceived from where the ice of the frozen region of Niflheim met with the sparks of hot and fiery Muspelheim. He fed from the primeval cow Audumla. Ymir was eventually killed and carved up by Odin and his brothers, who then used his corpse to fashion the world. His blood became the seas and lakes, his flesh the soil, his bones the mountains, and his teeth rocks and stones. His hair grew into

trees and the maggots from his rotting flesh became dwarves. His skull formed the sky held by four dwarves called North, South, East, and West. The etymology is very uncertain; a possibility is PIE: *yemos "twin"-perhaps a reference to Buri.

Ynyr c~ Welsh name. L: HONORIUS. Ynyr was a legendary fifth-century King of Gwent who was married to St. Madrun. Late 19th C.

Yoko ? Japanese name yo "glory," "honor," or "ocean" or "night" + ko "child." Bearers: Yoko Ono (b. 1933)-whose name is of the ocean variety.

Yolande ? Traditionally considered a Medieval French form of Violante (see Violet), Yolande is more likely to be Germanic in origin, perhaps OG: iv "yew" + landa "land." It appeared in numerous medieval romances. Bearers: Yolande de Dreux, Queen of Scotland (d. 1330); Yolande of Bar (d. 1483), sister-in-law of King Henry VI of England. Revived 20th C. Var: Yolanda, lolanda. Get, It: Jolanda.

Yonca y Turkish name-yonca "clover" and "trefoil."

Yonten a' Tibetan name-yon tan "skill," "excellence," "knowledge," and "achievement."

Yorick c~ Probably one of the most famous of Shakespeare's characters, even though Yorick never actually spoke a line (which would have been difficult-being a skull). The name was invented by Shakespeare and is probably a phonetic spelling of Georg, the Danish form of GEORGE. It was used by Laurence Sterne in his *A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy* (1768). 18th C.

York c~ Y English surname, deriving directly from the name of the historic town, which was known to the Romans as Eboracum. CC: *eburo- "yew" + suffix -ako-. The AngloSaxons turned this into Eoforwic, interpreting it as OE: eofor "boar" + wic "village." This was mangled by the Vikings into Jorvik, from which York evolved. 17th C. Var: Yorke.

Yoshi c~ 2 Japanese name yoshi "good." As well as being an independent name in Japan, it is often used as a short form of other names, such as Yoshito c~ "good man" or "lucky man," and Yoshiko 2 "good child."

Young e Y English surname. OE: geong "young." Examples are found as early as the seventeenth century, although it is not always easy to tell whether Young is the actual given name, or is being used as an adjective to differentiate a younger bearer of a surname from an older one. Young is also a Korean boy's name-yeong "spirit," "forever," and "order."

Ysanne 2 Ysanne was coined in the first half of the twentieth century, possibly as a combination of ISABELLA and ANN, under the influence of names such as Marianne and Suzanne. It is the name of a seeress in Guy Gavriel Kay's *The Summer Tree* (1984).

Ysbaddadan cc A giant, father of Olwen, who was doomed to die when Olwen wed. As a result he sets her suitor, Culhwch, a series of impossible tasks to win her hand, but with the aid of his cousin King Arthur, Culhwch succeeds. The story of Culhwch and Olwen features in the *Mabinogion*. W: ysbaddu "to castrate" or ysbyddad "hawthorn."

Ysfael c~ One of the sons of Cunedda. Ysfael is said to have ruled an area of the island of Anglesey, defending it against Irish invaders during the chaos following the withdrawal of the Roman legions in the fifth century. The first element is unknown. The second is W. mael "prince."

Ysgawen cc y Welsh: ysgawen "elder."

Ystwyth e Y The Welsh river which gives its name to the town of Aberystwyth. Its Roman name was Stuccia. This seems to be CC: *stu-n-g-o- "to bend"; the Modern Welsh ystwyth means "subtle" and "flexible." Early 20th C.

Yu Y Chinese name. Mand: yu "pleased," "handsome," "elm," "excellence," "passionate desire"; yu "chalcedony," "feather," "rain; yu "happy," "wish," "bright light," "brilliant," "radiance of fire," "jade," and "ghost of a child."

Yuki cc' Y Japanese name-yuki "happy" and "snowfall," or yu "reason" + ki "joy." Yuki is also used as a short form of other names beginning with the element such as the girl's name Yukiko-yuki + ko "child."

Yule o~ ? For centuries this was the usual name for Christmas and Christmastide and remained the more usual form in Scotland and Northern Counties until recent times. OE: jeol, cognate with ON: jol-the Norse Pagan midwinter

festival lasting twelve days. It is now the most commonly used Pagan term for the Winter Solstice. The ultimate origin is unknown. There is some evidence that Yule was used as a personal name in the Middle Ages, perhaps for someone born on the festival; a woman called Yula may have given her name to the island of ISLAY. Var: Yul-also used as a short form of Yuliy (see Julius). Bearers: Yul Brynner (1920-85), the Russian-born actor. Yul is the hero of Kit Berry's Stonewylde series (2005-).

Yumiko Y Japanese name with a number of meanings, depending on the kanji. All end in ko "child" and some contain the middle element mi "beauty." Among some of the first elements used are yu "friend" and yu "evening."

Yuri c~ Y As a boy's name, this is treated as the Russian form of GEORGE, made well-known in the Englishspeaking world through Russians such as the cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin (1934-68) and Yuri Zhivago, hero of Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago (1957). It may, however, actually represent an older Slavic name derived from the Slavic "spring," which was used to

render George, rather than deriving truly from George itself. Its original use may also have been in reference to the Slavic God Jarilo. It is also a Japanese girl's name meaning "lily." An elaboration is Yuriko-"lily child."

Yves Gc French form of IVO, in use since the Middle Ages, often combined with JEAN as Jean-Yves. 19th C.

Yvette Y Variant of YVONNE. Yvette is also the name of a small river in France. 19th C. Cz: Iveta, Hun: Ivetta, Pol: Iweta. Bearers: Yvette Saywell is the main character in D. H. Lawrence's *The Virgin and the Gypsy* (1926), and *Yvette* (1884) is a short story by Guy de Maupassant.

Yvonne Y French feminine form of YVES. 19th C. Pol: Iwona. Bearers: Yvonne de Carlo (1922-2007), the Canadian actress; Yvonne Frost (b. 1931), the Wiccan author, who founded the School of Wicca in 1968.

Ywein c~ Old Welsh form of OWAIN, found in medieval Romances.

Ywen 2 c Welsh: ywen "yew."

Zacchaeus Latin form of the Hebrew Zakkai. This was probably a short form of ZACHARY, though it has sometimes been derived from an Aramaic word meaning "pure." 16th C.

Zachariel c? The name of one of the seven archangels of Christian angelology, as listed by Pope Gregory I. Heb: "(a) God has remembered." 19th C.

Zachary c? The English form of Zacharias, itself the Greek form of Zechariah. Heb: "Yahweh has remembered." 13th C. Dim: Zac, Zak, Zack. Bearers: Zachary Taylor (1784-1850), the twelfth president of the United States; Zachary Gray is a principal protagonist in a number of the novels of Madeleine L'Engle.

Zadkiel c~ In Western ritual magic, Zadkiel is the angel of the planet Jupiter, regarded as an angel of freedom, benevolence, and mercy. Heb: "righteousness of (a) God." Var: Zedekiel. Bearers: Richard James Morrison (1795-1874), the British astrologer, who used Zadkiel as a pseudonym.

Zadok c? Hebrew: tzadoq "justification" and "vindication." The name of a number of characters in the Bible, most famously the Zadok of Handel's opera Zadok the Priest

(1727), which was written for the coronation of King George III. 16th C. Var: Zadoc, Zadock.

Zafir e Arabic name zafir "victor" and "victorious." Fem: Zafira.

Zafiri Y Modern Greek: zapheiri "emerald." Found in Greece as a surname, Zafiri is the commonest transliteration into English. In Epirus, there is a game children play called the Zafiri which appears to be a survival of the worship of Adonis. A boy lies on the ground and is covered with flowers, leaves, and branches, while the girls sing a lament. They compare the boy to a Cypress tree cut down, then call to him to arise-at which point the boy leaps up and chases them. Var: Zaphiri, Zafeiri, Zapheiri.

Zafrina Y An Arabic and Spanish name. In the former, it is an elaboration of Zafreen, itself a variant of Zafira (see Zafir). In the latter, it is probably a contraction of Zeferina (see Zephyrina). A vampire of the name appears in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series (2005-8).

Zagreus c~ An obscure God, often identified with Dionysus. In ancient times, he was associated with the cult of Orphism. The followers of Orphism themselves believed that he was an ancient deity of the Minoans, a son of Persephone by Zeus, conceived when Zeus lay with her as a snake. Hera, jealous as usual, persuaded the Titans to kill him. As they pursued him, Zagreus changed his shape, but he failed to escape them and they caught him while he was in the form of a bull, tearing him to pieces and eating his flesh. For their crime, Zeus destroyed them, and Persephone retrieved Zagreus's still-beating heart, which Zeus implanted into Semele. Zagreus was thus born again as Dionysus. A character called Horace Zagreus features in Wyndham Lewis's novel *The Apes of God* (1930); it is widely believed that Lewis based the character on Aleister Crowley.

Zahra 2 Arabic name-zahra "flower" < zahara "to shine." Var: Zahara.

Zaid c~ Arabic name-zada "to increase." Var: Zayd. Fem: Zaida, Zayda, Zada.

Zaira Y The name of a 1797 opera by Nasolini, and an 1829 one by Bellini, both based on Voltaire's *Zaire, or The Tragedy of Zara* (1732). Ar: zzhara "to shine" or the related azhara "to blossom."

Zaire Y cc Adoption of the name of the African country, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo. Both Zaire and Congo take their names from the country's principal river which is known as both the Zaire and the Congo. Kongo: nzere or nzadi "big river." 20th C.

Zaki cc Arabic name-zaki "pure." It also means "lion" in Hausa, while in Pashto and Urdu, it means "intelligent" and "witty."

Zaklina Y Anglicized spelling of Zaklina and 2aklina, the Polish and Croatian forms of JACQUELINE respectively. In more than one Slavic

language, zaklinanue, or variant forms-such as the Ukrainian zaklinannya-mean "incantation," "magic spell," or "charm."

Zale 2 Greek: zale "surging of the sea" or "spray"; in the plural-zalai-"storms." In Modern Greek, however, it means "dizziness." 19th C.

Zalmoxis c~ The name of a Thracian God. He was regarded as the only true God by followers of his cult in ancient times, who regarded death as simply "returning to Zalmoxis." According to the Greek historian Herodotus, it was believed by his adherents that he had been born a man and became a great philosopher, teaching the people

of his land about the immortality of the soul. Many other myths surround him. It was said he had once been a pupil of Pythagoras and that he had traveled to Egypt, where he had learnt his mystical knowledge. He was also believed to have spent three years in a cave on a mountain, or even in Hades itself. His return (treated as a resurrection in some versions) convinced his followers that his teachings were true. He is also equated with Sabazius and Dionysus. The origin of the name is obscure. In ancient times, it was said by one commentator to mean "bear-skin," but it may possibly be connected with ZEMELO, or the Lithuanian Earth God Zjameluks. Var: Zamolxis, Samolxis, Salmoxis.

Zamrud Y Malaysian name-Malay: zamrud "emerald."

Zana 2 Romanian: zdna "fairy," "Goddess" or "pixie" < DIANA. Related are Albanian Zanash and Zane, which also mean "fairy." Zana appears in the ESW in the nineteenth century, although its original use was probably as a variant of ZENA.

Zane c? West Country surname, from the Old English name Saewine-OE: sce "sea" + wine "friend." It was taken to America, where it is far more common as a surname (having almost certainly merged with the German surname Zahn), at the end of the seventeenth century. Bearers: (Pearl) Zane Grey (1872-1939), the American author.

Zaniah Y The medieval name for a star in Virgo called Eta Virginis, which is actually a triple star system. Ar: zawiyah "corner"-although Alhazen

claimed it meant "harlot."

Zaphod c~ Invented by Douglas Adams for Zaphod Beeblebrox, one of the principal characters in his Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series (1979-92). Late 20th C.

Zaqar c? Also known as Dzakar, Zakar is the Mesopotamian God of dreams, the messenger of the God Sin. Akkadian: zakaru "to speak," "to name," and "to swear."

Zara Y Zara first occurs in records in the late sixteenth century, but during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it almost certainly represents a misspelling of SARAH. It was first used as a distinct name in its own right by William Congreve in his play The Mourning Bride (1697) as the name of an African queen. Congreve said the name meant "brightness of the dawn," presumably deriving it from Ar: zahara "to shine." In Spanish, zara means "corn," an adoption of the Quechua SARA. Mama Zara and Zaramama are alternative names of the Incan Goddess Sara Mama. Bearers: Zara Philips (b. 1981), the British equestrian and grand-daughter of Queen Elizabeth II. Zara, Priestess of the Golden Flame, was a villain in the original Wonder Woman comic strip (1941-).

Zarina Y Persian name-zarin "golden."

Zarita Y Spanish pet-form of SARA. 19th C.

Zarko cc Serbo-Croatian name zar "fervor," "ardor," and "ember." Var: Zharko.

Zarpanit Y A Mesopotamian Goddess, consort of Marduk and associated with Ishtar. The etymology isn't certain. Akkadian folk-etymology derived it from zerum "seed" and "offspring" + bantu "mother" < banu "to produce," but more likely it is from sarapu "to burn." Var: Sarpanit, Zerbanitu, Zerpanitum, Zirbanit.

Zawadi Y cc Swahili: zawadi "gift," "memento," and "prize."

Zayden c~ One of the most recent names to hail from the Aidan/Braden/Caden/Jayden stable. Late 20th C. Var: Zaden.

Zea ? A variant spelling of ZIA, zea to the Romans and Greeks was a type of grain or spelt used as animal fodder. Among the Romans, it was also a kind of rosemary. Today, it is the botanical name for corn (known as maize in Britain). Early 19th C. Var: Zeah.

Zeal a' Y The English word "zeal" derives from Gr: *zelos*, which was used in the Bible to mean "ardent feeling" or "fervor" taking the form of any strong emotion, such as love, wrath, jealousy, or righteous indignation. However, the rare surname derives from various places called Zeal in England, which come from OE: *sealh* "sallow-tree." 17th C. Var: ZEL, Zele, Zeale.

Zebedee c~ English form of Hebrew Zebadiah "gift of (a) God." 16th C. Dim: Zeb. Zebedee was a character on the British version of the children's television series *The Magic Roundabout* (1965-77).

Zebulon G~ The name of one of the tribes of Israel, personified as one of the sons of Jacob. The name means "little dwelling" in Hebrew, which is given a fanciful explanation

by Leah to explain why he bears such a blatant toponym (at a time when it wasn't the fashion). "Now will my husband dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons!" she crows. In modern times, attempts have been made to derive the name from a separate root meaning "exaltation," but in this case, the original etymology is likely to be correct. 16th C. Dim: Zeb.

Zedekiah cc Biblical name. Heb: "Yahweh is righteous." The name of the last king of Judah before the city was destroyed by Babylon. 16th C.

Zel c? According to the folklore of the county of Wiltshire, England, Zel was the name of the king buried at Silbury Hill-the largest ancient mound in Europe. A version of the tale recorded by the English antiquarian John Aubrey in 1670 states he was buried there on horseback. Later accounts tell of how he was encased in a gold coffin and that his ghost can still be seen riding over the mound on a moonlit night. However, despite numerous

archaeological excavation of the mound, no trace of a burial has ever been found, and the original purpose of the mound remains a mystery. Zel is in reality simply the local pronunciation of the Sil of SilburyOE: siele "copse of willow."

Zelda y Originally a pet-form of GRISELDA. Mid-19th C. Bearers: Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald (1900-48), the novelist, wife of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who dubbed her "America's first Flapper."

Zelia 2 Zelia probably developed as a variant of ZILLAH or CELIA rather than being taken directly from Gr: zelos "eager rivalry," "zealous imitation," "object of desire," and "glory." 18th C. Fr: Zelig. Bearers: Zelia Nuttall (1857- 1933), the American archaeologist and anthropologist. There is also an asteroid of the name, discovered in 1876, which in being named after the niece of the astronomer and author Camille Flammarion was one of the very first to be named after a person rather than a Goddess or nymph.

Zelinda Y Zelinda made its first appearance in Vivaldi's opera Teuzzone (1719), although the English poet Leonard Welsted was also using the name in his poetry around the same time. It also featured in Vincenzo Pucitta's opera Zelinda e Lindoro (1803). The inspiration probably came from Zelus, a minor figure in Greek mythology. Gr: zelos "zeal." 18th C.

Zeljko c Serbo-Croatian name-zelja "desire." Fem: Zeljka, Zheljka.

Zella Y Originally, a variant of ZILLAH and ZELIA, Zella saw most use in late nineteenth-century America. There is a character called Zella in L. Frank Baum's Rinkitink in Oz (1916).

Zemelo Y A Thraco-Phrygian Earth Goddess, whose name may possibly be the origin of SEMELE. It is almost certainly from the same root as ZEMLYA.

Zemirah Y Hebrew: zemirah-the name given to a religious song sung at the meal on a Sabbath in Jewish homes. 19th C.

Zemlya Y Russian word meaning "earth." It carries the sense of soil, land, and the Otherworld. The Serbo-Croatian cognate Zemlja is also used to

mean "Planet Earth."

Zemyna Y Lithuanian fertility and Earth Goddess. Lith: zeme "earth." Lat: Zemes-mate.

Zen e ? In Ancient Greek, Zen is a poetic variant of ZEUS, but today Zen is mostly associated with Zen Buddhism, which emphasizes the importance of experience over scriptural knowledge. The philosophy became well known in the West in the last half of the twentieth century, though its history dates back to at least the seventh century, when it was first documented in China. The word derives ultimately from San: dhyana "meditation." It became a household word following the enormous success of Robert M. Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* (1974), and also featured as the name of the morose and evasive computer in the British science-fiction series *Blake's 7* (1978-81). 20th C.

Zena 2 e A variant of ZINA and short form of ZENAIDA, Zena is also used as a male and female name in Ethiopia; it means "news" in Amharic. There, it is also found in combinations such as Zena Gebrel "news of Gabriel" and Zena Maryam "news of Mary"-both boys' names. Zena is also a Persian girl's name, from Persian: zan "woman." Bearers: Zena Dare (1887-1975), a British actress.

Zenaida Y The usual form today of Zenais, the name of an alleged first-century Christian female physician who lived with her sister Philonella in a cave in the mountains outside Tarsus, where they healed people for free. In some versions, she and her sister lived to ripe old ages; in others they were

stoned to death by dastardly Pagans, conveniently turning them into martyrs. Needless to say, the earliest accounts of their existence date from some centuries later. Gr: Zen (the poetic variant of ZEUS.) Var: Zinaida, Zinals. Fr: Zenaide. Dim: ZENA. Bearers: Zenaide Laetitia Julie Bonaparte (1801-54), the niece of Napoleon, after whom the Zenaida doves of North America are named.

Zenith c' Y The highest point of the celestial sphere, a word found in English from the fourteenth century. Ar: samt ar-ras "way over the head." Late 19th C. Var: Cenith, Senith (hist).

Zennor 2 A Cornish village, deriving from SENARA. Zennor is famous for a legend about a mermaid. The tale goes that a beautiful woman used to visit the village from time to time. No one knew where she came from. She fell in love with a young man called Matthey Trehella, the best singer in the church choir. One day he disappeared without trace, and the woman came to the village no more. Many years later, a ship lay anchor in the bay and was accosted by a mermaid. She asked him to move his anchor as it was blocking her front door; she couldn't get into her house and her children were trapped inside. The locals of Zennor surmised that this mermaid and the mysterious woman were one and the same, and that she had enticed Matthey away to be her husband. 20th C.

Zeno c? Latin form of Greek Zenon, the name of several figures in the ancient world, such as Zeno of Citium (333- 264 BCE), the founder of Stoicism and the first-century BCE Epicurean, Zeno of Sidon. Gr: Zen (a poetic form of ZEUS) + name suffix -on. 16th C.

Zenobia Y A third-century CE queen of Palmyra. She went to war with Rome and captured Egypt before finally being defeated by the Emperor Aurelian and taken to Rome, reputedly in chains of gold. Aurelian was so impressed by her that after a triumphal parade celebrating his victory, he freed her, and she lived out the rest of her days in a luxurious villa, becoming a prominent Roman socialite and philosopher. She claimed descent from both the Carthaginian queen Dido and Egyptian Cleopatra. Her name is probably a Hellenized form of Arabic Zaynab, which is the name of a fragrant flowering plant (the American Zenobia-also known as the honeysuckle-is unrelated). The Greek version of her name means "Zeus is life" or "life of Zeus." For some unknown reason, the name was used in Devon and Cornwall between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, often in variant forms such as Zenobie, Zenoby, Senobia, Senobie, Sinobia, Synobie, and Cenoby. The name features in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Blithedale Romance* (1852) and Robert E. Howard's *The Hour of the Dragon* (1935). Zenobia is also a 1939 film starring Oliver Hardy, in which Zenobia is an elephant.

Zenry c' y Old West Country name for charlock, a perennial weed in the British Isles, but one with certain outstanding qualities, such as its pretty

yellow flowers which bloom in late spring and early summer. Its seeds are a good substitute for mustard, and in the past the plant was eaten as a green vegetable when young, especially in Ireland and Sweden. The name is probably a corruption of L: saurion "mustard"strongly influenced by HENRY.

Zephalinda 2 A name coined by the English poet Alexander Pope, appearing in his poem "Epistle to Miss Blount" (1715).18th C.

Zephaniah c Meaning "Yahweh has concealed" in Hebrew, Zephaniah was the name of a number of characters in the Bible, including a prophet. 16th C.

Zephon c~ An angel mentioned in the apocryphal Book of Enoch. Heb: "hidden." In John Milton's Paradise Lost (1667), it is the name given to a cherub and guardian prince of Paradise.

Zephyr c~ ? The classical deity Zephyr or Zephyrus was God of the West Wind, the equivalent of the Roman Favonius. Zephyr was the gentlest of the winds, the bringer of the spring, and his name has been used to mean "gentle breeze" since the seventeenth century. In some myths, his wife is Iris-in others, Chloris. He also fell in love with the handsome youth Hyacinth. 19th C.

Zephyria Y Epithet of Aphrodite. Gr: zephurios "of the West." It was also the name of a small island, off the coast of Turkey, which was the site of the original settlement of Halicarnassus, a city famous for the Mausoleum, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Zephyria Island is now entirely occupied by Bodrum Castle. 19th C.

Zephyrina Y Feminine form of ZEPHYR. 18th C. Var: Zepherina. Dim: Zeph. Port, Sp: Zeferina, Fr: Zephyrine. Bearers: Zephyrine "Zeph" Gladstone (1937-2002), the British actress.

Zerachiel c? One of the archangels, according to the apocryphal Book of Enoch. Heb: "(a) God's command."

Zerdali 2 Turkish: zerdali "apricot"-specifically, the wild apricot.

Zere c~ Ethiopian name. Amharic: zkr "seed." It is used to denote descent from one individual and therefore carries the additional meaning of "lineage" and "family." As well as being a name in its own right, it is found in many other Ethiopian names, such as Zereburuk "family of the blessed." Var: Zeru.

Zerlina Y A name seemingly invented for Mozart's opera Don Giovanni (1787). Zerla is an Italian surname, although this may be incidental. It is probable that Mozart (or, more likely, his Italian librettist da Ponte) simply made the name up. The French form Zerline features in Daniel Auber's opera Fra Diavolo (1830). 19th C.

Zerrin 2 Turkish name-zerrin "gold," "golden," and "jonquil."

Zerynthia 2 Epithet of Aphrodite. Gr: Zerunthios "of Zerynthus," a town in Thrace. Zerynthia was also the name by which Hecate was worshipped at Samothrace, alongside Aphrodite Zerynthia. Now, it is also the name of a type of butterfly. 20th C.

Zest e 2 The origin of the word "zest" is obscure. It was introduced into the ESW in the seventeenth century, being first used for the peel of an orange or lemon, or the oils extracted from them. In the eighteenth century, it began to be used of anything that added flavor or agreeability to something, finally acquiring the meaning "enthusiasm" at the end of that century. 20th C. Var: Zesty.

Zethus Gc A son of Zeus by Antiope. Gr: zao "to live." Zethus was the name of a third-century CE Neo-Platonist and friend of Plotinus. It is also used now for a species of wasp. 19th C.

Zeus e The king of the Olympian Gods of Greece, and equivalent to the Roman Jupiter, Zeus needs little introduction. Son of Cronos and Rhea, he escaped the fate of his siblings-being devoured by their father-when his mother tricked Cronos into eating a rock instead of his newly born son. Zeus was raised on Mount Ida in Crete-by whom varies; Amalthea is the most often named. He grew up to overthrow his father, and become king of the Gods, fulfilling his destiny. Also regarded as the God of thunder, oaths and the protection of strangers, he is famed for his numerous romantic

liaisons with both Goddesses and mortal women alike. PIE: *deyw-o-.19th C.

Zewde y c~ Ethiopian name. Amharic: zkw'd "crown." Var: Zewdi.

Zhilan 2 Chinese name. Mand: zhl"iris" and lan "orchid." In China, the iris symbolizes early summer and is often called "the purple butterfly." It is also regarded as a symbol of friendship and longevity.

Zia cc Y Arabic name-zia "shine." Var: Ziya, Diya and Dhia. Zia also features in the Bible as the name of a Gadite; it is almost certainly cognate with the Arabic name. Zia began to be used in the ESW in the seventeenth century. Since the nineteenth century, Zia has also been used for girls, possibly influenced by the Zia tribe of New Mexico-also known as the Tsiya and Sia.'The sun is particularly sacred to them, and its symbol-a red circle with rays emanating at the four compass points-features on the New Mexico flag. Var: ZEA.

Zibellina y The Italian name for "sable," and equivalent of SABELINA. It also features in the animal's scientific name: *Mustela zibellina*. 20th C.

Ziezdre Y Lithuanian Goddess of the planet Mars; one of the daughters of Saule. Lith: ziezdr'd "sand," "earth," "spark."

Zillah Y Biblical name. Heb: "shade." 16th C. Var: Zilla.

Zilpah y Hebrew: "with a little nose." In the Bible, Zilpah was Leah's slave girl, who became one of Jacob's concubines. 16th C. Var: Zilpa, Zilpha.

Zima e Y Polish: zima "winter." Zima is used as a short form of Erazim, the Czech form of ERASMUS, and in Germany, it is found as a short form of SIMON. It is also a Swahili adjective meaning "whole."

Zina 2 A name with a longer history in the ESW than some might think. It is first found as a variant of SINA- a short form of THOMASINA-in Britain in the seventeenth century, and was particularly prevalent among the Romani. The name is now almost universally treated as a short form or variant of ZENOBIA, ZENAIDA, Zinaida, XENIA, or ROSINA. Var:

ZENA, Ziney, Zinny. The word zina has meaning in a number of other languages: in Hausa, it means "beauty," and in Malagasy, "abundance." Unfortunately, in Arabic it means "adultery," and in Islamic Sharia law, zina is used as a term to denote not just extra-marital but also pre-marital sex-which is regarded as a crime and punishable by death. Bearers: Zina Young (1821-1901), the Mormon social activist, whose mother was also called Zina. Zina (1985) was an award-winning film by Ken McMullen.

Zinc cc Y A hard metal, also known as spelter, which was first recognized as a metal in India in the thirteenth century. In the Middle Ages, zinc oxide was known to alchemists as *lana philosophica*, meaning "philosopher's wool" in Latin. The word zinc itself probably derives from Ger: *zinke* "tooth," (referring to the fact that metallic crystals of zinc are jagged) or *zinn* "tin" and "pewter." An essential mineral of life, a zinc pendant or ring is considered useful for calming down a surplus of electricity in the body. 20th C.

Zinder c~ A historic city in Niger. The town gives its name to the "Zinder Cross," a type of talisman often worn by Tuareg women, which is a symbol of fertility and protection. The etymology is unknown.

Zinelor 2 Doamna (Lady) Zinelor is the Romanian equivalent of Herodias or Aradia. Her name may possibly be derived from SELENE, or be connected with ZANA.

Zinevra Y A character in Boccaccio's Decameron. She is the wife of a merchant who wagers a bet that she would remain faithful if he left her for ten years. After the man her husband made the bet with produces false evidence of her infidelity, she ends up having many adventures as she fights to clear her name. The name was probably invented by Boccaccio, possibly as a variant of GINEVRA. It was taken up in Italy, where, by the fifteenth century, it had also become the name of a dance. On Corisca, zinevra is a name for the black widow spider. *Esse puntu di zinevra*-meaning "bitten by a zinevra"-is a Corsican expression used of someone who has gone mad, while *mandd in zinevra!* is the Corsican equivalent of "go to hell!" 20th C. Bearers: Zinevra Cemola (d. 1647), an Italian woman beheaded and burned for Witchcraft at Castelnovo.

Zingara Y Italian: zingara "(female) gypsy." 19th C. La Zingara (1822) is an opera by Gaetano Donizetti.

Zinka Y Originally a pet-form of ZENAIDA and ZINA used in a number of Slavic lands. Early 20th C. Bearers: Zinka Milanov (1906-89), a Croatian-born opera singer.

Zinnia 2 A type of flower originating from the American southwest and Mexico. It was named by Linnaeus in 1763 after the German botanist Johann Gottfried Zinn. Ger: zinn "pewter." Zinnias symbolize remembrance, and Van Gogh painted the flower more than once. 19th C. In Roald Dahl's Matilda (1988), Matilda's mother is called Zinnia.

Zion c 2 The name of a hill near Jerusalem, which has been a poetic name for the land of Israel since at least the eleventh century. Its origin is uncertain, and it may not be Hebrew. It is, however, very similar to the Heb: tsiyun "landmark." The word was adopted in the early twentieth century by Jews and their supporters who wished to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In fiction, Zion is the name of the human-run underground city in the Matrix film trilogy (1999-2003), and a space-station in William Gibson's Necromancer (1984). 18th C. Var: Ziona Y.

Zipporah Y The name of the wife of Moses in the Bible. Heb: sippor "bird." 16th C. Var: Zephorah, Sephora, Seffora.

Zircon ? The name of a silicate of zirconium found in crystals in a myriad of colors, including yellow, green, blue, and reddish brown. It is used in chakra work as it has properties of healing and cleansing, helping open a person up to receive guidance, and to protect energy fields. Arabic: zarqun "gold-colored" < Persian: zargun. Late 20th C.

Zisha Y Lakota: zisa "orange" (the color).

Zita Y Meaning "little girl" in medieval Italian, the thirteenth-century Italian saint of the name is the patron saint of female servants. 19th C. Var: Zeta. Bearers: Zita BourbonParma (1892-1989), the last Empress of Austro-Hungary; Catherine Zeta Jones (b. 1969), the Welsh actress.

Ziusudra a' Sumerian: zi "breathing," "breath of life," and "soul" + u-sud-ra "for eternity"-which happens to be the epithet in Akkadian of Atrahasis, another name by which Ziusudra is known. Ziusudra features in early Sumerian king-lists and is the prototype of the biblical Noah. In the Sumerian version, however, he and his wife are made immortal after they survive the Flood. Akkadian: Utnapishtim. Gr: Xisuthros.

Zizi Y Pet name of various origins. The forenames of Zizi Jeanmarie (b. 1924), the French ballet dancer, are Renee Marcelle. Those of Zizi Lambrino (1898-1953), the first wife of King Carol II of Romania, were Joanna Marie Valentina. It is sometimes used as a pet-form of ELIZABETH. It is worth bearing in mind that in French, zizi is a slang term for both male and female genitalia.

Zizyphus c? Botanical name for the jujube. Gr: zizuphon `jujube." The feminine form Zizypha is used for its berries.

Zjarr a' Y Albanian: zjarr "blaze," "flame," or "ardor." Fem: Zjarre.

Zlatan c~ Czech: zlato "gold"; Zlatan is used across the Slavic lands. Fem: Zlata.

Zodiac 2 The belt of constellations through which the sun, moon and planets pass. Late Gr: zodiakos < ho Mn zodion kuklos "the circle of the signs of the zodiac"; zodion < zoon "animal." 19th C.

Zoe 2 Greek: zoe "life." 16th C. Var: Zoa, Zoey. Bearers: Zoe Karbonopsina (fl. 905-919), a Byzantine empress; Zoe Wannamaker (b. 1949), the British actress; Zoe Washborne, a character in the American science-fiction series Firefly (2002-3); Zoe Heriot, a former companion of the Doctor in the British science-fiction series Doctor Who (1963-).

Zohreh Y Persian name for the planet Venus. Zohreh and Manouchehr, based on Shakespeare's Venus and Adonis, is one of the best-known works of the Iranian poet Iraj Mirza (1874-1926). A variant used elsewhere in the Islamic world is Zohra. Both derive ultimately from the Arabic zahara meaning "to shine," the same source as ZARA. A cognate is the Aramaic Zohara, which is found in a Jewish text of the third century CE. She is the

queen of love and mother of mischief, who appears before two angels selected by God to be earthly judges. They fall in love with her and attempt to seduce her, at which point she scuttles off back to Heaven and they find themselves shut out.

Zola 2 Zola is often regarded as a South African name, made famous by the athlete Zola Budd (b. 1966). Its meaning is often given as "quiet" in Zulu; the Zulu words for "quiet," however, are THULA and uxolo. Zola is actually found in the ESW from the eighteenth century, and is probably a variant of ZILLAH and ZULA. Its later use is likely to have been influenced by Emile Zola (1840-1902), the French novelist.

Zolla Y his name probably arose as a variant of ZOLA. In Italian, zolla means "clod of earth," but in Italy it is mostly found as a surname.

Zoltan c~ Hungarian name. Its origin isn't entirely clear; it may derive from the Turkish sultan, an Islamic title deriving from Ar: sultah "authority." Alternatively, it may be the Hungarian form of ZLATAN. It was the name of the 3rd Grand Prince of the Magyars, a tenth-century Hungarian ruler. Bearers: Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967), the Hungarian composer; Zoltan Korda (1895-1961), the Hungarian director.

Zona 2 Latin: zona "girdle"-referring specifically to a type of belt worn by women in Ancient Rome. It is also used of Orion's belt, as well as the imaginary circles which divide the Earth into five climates. 19th C. Bearers: Zona Gale (1874-1938), the Pulitzer prize-winning American novelist and playwright.

Zophiel Another name of the archangel Jophiel. The meaning is uncertain. It may simply be a variant of JOPHIEL. If it is a Hebrew name in its own right, it may mean "my rock is (a) God." Features in John Milton's Paradise Lost (1667).

Zora Y Serbo-Croatian: zora "dayspring" or "morn" cognate with ZORYA. Zorica-one of the names of the Morning Star-derives from it. In the ESW, Zora may have developed separately as a short form of ZORAIDA. Bearers: Zora Neale Huston (1891-1960), the American author and folklorist.

Zoraida Y Invented by Cervantes for a character in Don Quixote. She is a beautiful Moorish woman who converts to Christianity and runs off with a Spanish officer. It also featured in an 1845 novel entitled Zoraida or, The Witch of Naumkaeg, by a man with the picturesque name of Egbert Augustus Cowslip. 19th C.

Zorina Y In 1823, a young woman called Isabella Harvey-a passionate devotee of Lord Byron-adopted the name Zorina Stanley to correspond with him, almost certainly pure invention on her part. However, Zorina is the feminine form of the Russian surname ZORIN. It was introduced to the West by the ballerina Vera Zorina (1917-

2003)-who was actually Norwegian, and whose real name was Eva Birgitta Hartwig.

Zorion c~ Basque name-zorion "fortune," "good luck," and "happiness."

Zoroaster c~ The Persian prophet and founder of Zoroastrianism. It used to be believed that he lived in the sixth century BCE, but it is now generally accepted that the works attested to him date from at least four or five centuries earlier. His name in Persian is Zarathushtra.'The second element of the name-ultra-means "camels," but the first is disputed and might mean anything from "old," "yellow," "golden," and "angry" to "moving" or "desiring." When the name was Hellenized, the Greeks typically manipulated the name to give it meaning in their tongue, in this case Gr: zoros "pure" and "sheer" + astra "stars."

Zorya Y The name in Slavic mythology of the guardian Goddesses of the dawn, who vary in number between two and three, depending on the source. Their role is to guard the hound which forever threatens Ursa Minor. Legend has it that if the chain were to break free and the dog ate Ursa Minor, the universe would end. Associated with the Morning and Evening Stars (Zorya Utrennyaya and Zorya Vechernyaya), a third, the Midnight Star (Zorya Polnochnaya), is sometimes included, in whose arms the sun is said to die each night.'They are regarded by many as a manifestation of the Triple Goddess, and are also known as Zarya, Zvezda, and Danica.'The three Zorya appear in Neil Gaiman's novel American Gods (2001).

Zosimus e A fifth-century Pagan historian, who is often the only Pagan voice of the events he describes. Gr: zdsimos "viable" and "likely to survive." Fem: Zosima.

Zosteria 2 Epithet of Athene. Gr: zoster "girdle" and "warrior's belt"-a reference to her role as Goddess of war.'The God Apollo had a very similar epithet-Zosterius-but in his case it derived from the town of Zoster on the west coast of Attica. In ancient times it was believed that this town's name also derived from zdster. According to the legend, it gained its name because it was at Zoster that Leto "loosened her girdle" to prepare to deliver her twins, Apollo and Artemis-hence Apollo's association.

Zozma cc' Y Traditional name for Delta Leonis, a star in Leo. Gr: zozma "loincloth."

Zsa Zsa 2 Hungarian pet-name, usually of Zsuzsanna- the Hungarian form of SUSANNAH. However, in the case of its most famous bearer-Zsa Zsa Gabor (b. 1917)-it was used as a pet-form of Sari, itself a diminutive of SAROLTA. 20th C. Var: Zsazsa.

Zubaida Y Arabic name-zubaida "marigold." Zubaida occurs in One Thousand and One Nights. Var: Zobaida.

Zuharah Y The Arabic name for the planet Venus. It derives, like ZARA, from Ar: zahara "to shine." Malay: Zuhrah.

Zuka 2 Swahili: zuka "vision" and "ghost."

Zula Y The earliest examples of Zula are almost certainly variants of ZILLAH, though from the early nineteenth century, it is possible that they represent the development of a short form of ZULEIKA.'lhe name is now usually associated with ZULU, although it is unlikely any connection was made except by those with African connections until the Anglo-Zulu War (1879).'His was the period when the name was already pretty much at the zenith of its use in America. Var: ZOLA. 'There is a character of the name in the film Conan the Destroyer (1984).

Zuleika Y The name bestowed upon Potiphar's wife in the eighth century, and immortalized in the fifteenth century by the Persian poet Jami in Yusuf and Zuleika. She appeared again in the 1880s in a poem by Rudyard Kipling. Max Beerbohm used the name for his heroine in Zuleika Dobson (1911), which inspired the 1950s musical Zuleika. It is also used as the name of a fairy princess in Egyptian children's

stories. It is often said to be of Persian origin, meaning "brilliant beauty," but this is not substantiated, and it is more likely to come from the Arabic name Zulekha meaning "fair." 19th C. Dim: Zuzu, ZULA.

Zulu c? Y The name of the famous African ethnic group, adopted as a given name in the twentieth century.

Zuri Y Zuri is mostly used in Israel and the Arab world as a variant of SURI. The word also means "perjury" in Swahili, although when used in compound words it can mean "beautiful," "good," and "delicious."

Zuva y Shona: zuva "day" and "sun."

Zuza ? Pet-form of the Czech and Slovak Zuzana and Polish Zuzanna-equivalents of SUSANNAH. It also happens to mean "to win," "to earn," and "to achieve" in Zulu, and as an imperative means, "win!" "earn!" and "achieve!"

Zuzecha Y Lakota: zuzeca "snake."

Zvezda y A word meaning "star" in a number of Slavic languages, including Russian. It is also a name by which the Zorya are known. 20th C.

Zygia ? Epithet of Hera as the patroness of marriage. Gr: zugios "yoked"-i.e. "married." It also is the Greek word for the maple.

Zygy c? Ancient Greek name for Libra. Gr: zugos "yoke (of a plough)," "crossbar," and "balance beam." 20th C.



The pronunciation guidance given here is exactly that guidance. There are names in this book from across the globe and from hundreds of languages. Without using the complex International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), it would be impossible to give exact pronunciation-and would, in any case, have little value, as there is often considerable variation within a language as to how names are pronounced. If this considerably simplified version of IPA is followed, you should be able to pronounce non-English names closely enough.

Only one symbol has been included which may be unfamiliar-the "turned e" (ə). This represents the half "a," half "u" sound found in words such as "above" and "another," which is the usual pronunciation of -a at the end of many names in English.

a short "a" as in "bad," "cat," and "accent"

ah long "a" as in "father"

ai the long "a" in "air," "dare," and "bear"

aw the "aw" sound in "taught," "thought" "draw," and "fall"

ay long "a" as in "able," "made," and "pain"

b "b" as in "box"

ch "ch" as in "church"

d "d" as in "dog"

e short "e" as in "bet," "deck," and "ten"

ee the long "e" sound in "feet," "eat," "scene," and "niece"

a the "uh" sound in "above" and "another"

f "f" as in "fire"

g "g" as in "get" NOT as in "German"

h "h" as in "house"

i short "i" sound in "pin," "lit," and "kiss"

i long "i" sound in "sigh," "fly," "eye," and "style"

j as in fudge

k "k" as in "kettle" and the sound "c" as in "cat"

kh the "ch" sound in the Scottish "loch," or German "ich" and "Bach" (as in Johann Sebastian), etc; a rasping, breathy sound at the back of the tongue. To pronounce it, start as though you were about to say "k," but don't quite allow your tongue to touch the roof of your mouth. Then try to say "h." Alternatively, get someone who speaks a language which contains the sound to teach it to you.

l "l" as in "love"

lh the infamous Welsh "ll" is pronounced by putting the tip of the tongue behind the teeth and then trying to say a "h." Ideally get a Welsh speaker to teach you.

m "m" as in "mother"

n "n" as in "not"

ng "ng" as in "singing"

o short "o" as in "pot," "rod," "moss," "sock," and "wasp"

o the long "o" sound in "doe," "goat," "road," "roll," "cold," and "bowl"

oy the "oi" sound in "boy," "foil," "hoist," and "choice"

oo the "oo" sound in "fool," "goose," "threw," "you," and "rule"

ow the "on" as in "out," "doubt," "now," and "cow"

p "p" as in "peace"

r "r" as in "red"

s "s" as in "sing," "soul," "sense" and "miss," NOT as in "his"

sh "sh" as in "shine"

t "t" as in "top"

th "th" as in "thin" and "thirsty," NOT "that" and "then"

th "th" as in "that" and "then" NOT as in "thin" and "thirsty"

u the short "u" sound in "put," "pudding," "foot," and "hood"

u the long "u" sound in "nurse," "burn," "ermine," "earth," and "bird"

v "v" as in "vase"

w "w" as in "west"

y „yas in "yes"

z the "z" sound as in "zebra," "his," and "knees"

zh the "s" sound in "pleasure," and the "j" of French je."

Stress

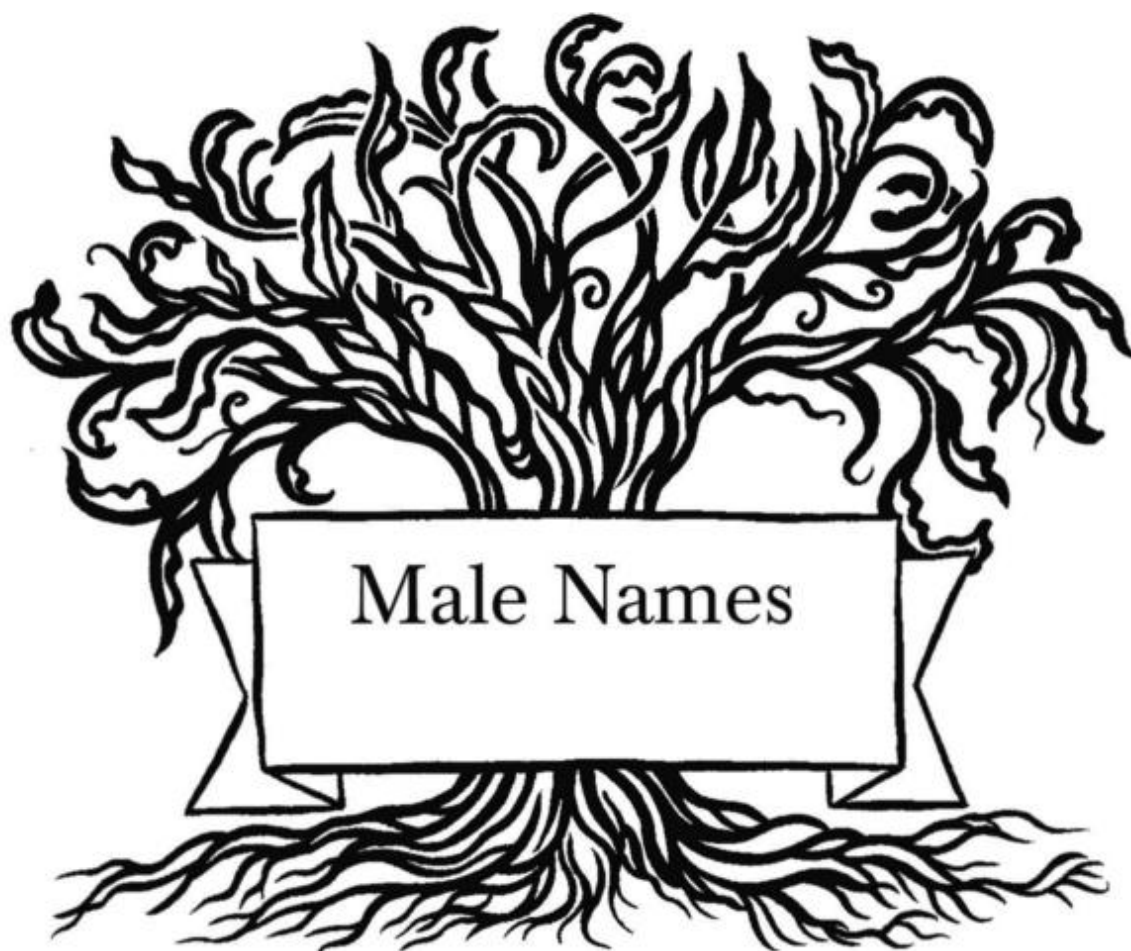
The syllable or syllables on which the stress falls are indicated by capitals. It should, however, be remembered that languages differ in how much stress is used within words; in some it is very strong, in others very weak. Where syllables are stressed equally, no stress is shown. Once again, if authenticity is important to you, you must seek out a native speaker.

Nanaja (NA-na-ya). See Nanaya Nanaya (NA-na-ya) Nance. See Nancy Nancie. See Nancy Nancy Nanda (NAN-do) Nanette (no-NET) Nani (NAH-nee) Nanna Nannette (no-NET). See Nanette Nanny. See Ann, Nan Nanshe (nan-SHAY) Nantosuelta (nan-to-swel-to) Nanwen (nan-wen) Nao (NOW) Naoko (NOW-ko). See Nao Naomh (NAV/NEV) Naomi (nay-O-mee/na-O-mi) Naphtali (NAP-tho-li) Nara (NAH-r3) Naran (na-ran) Narantsetseg (na-ran-se-seg). See Naran Narantuya (na-ran-too-yah). See Naran Narbfiaith (NAHR-vo-lo). See Narbhflaith Narbhflaith (NAHR-vo-lo) Narbhla (NAHR-va-la). See Narbhflaith Narcissa (nahr-SlS-a) Nareli (no-RE-lee) Narelle (no-REL) Nari (NAH-ree) Narvla (NAHR-vo-la). See Narbhflaith Nashira (na-SHEER-a) Nashirah (na-SHEER-o). See Nashira Nashoba (nah-sho-BAH) Nasim (na-SEEM) Nasima (na-SEEM-a). See Nasim Nasira (na-SEER-o). See Nasir Naskila (nas-kee-lah) Nasreen (nos-REEN). See Nasrin Nasrin (nos-REEN) Nassim (na-SEEM). See Nasim Nat. See Natalie, Natasha Natacha (no-TASH-o) Natalee (NA-to-lee). See Natalie Natalia (NA-tal-ee-o). See Natalie

Natalia (no-TAH-lee-o/no-TAL- ee-o). See Natalie Natalie Nataly (NA-to-lee). See Natalie Natalya (na-TAL-ee-o). See Natalie Natasha (no-TASH-o) Nathalie (NA-to-lee). See Natalie Nathaly (na-TAL-ee-o). See Natalie Natsuko (NAT-soo-ko) Natsumi (NAT-soo-mi). See Natsuko Naunet (naw-net) Nausicaa (nawz-i-KAY-a) Nayeli (na-JEL-ee) Naz (NAHZ) Nazaret (na-ZAH-ret). See Nazareth Nazareth (NA-zo-roth) Nea (NEE-o). See Linnea Neamh (NEV) Neamhan (NEV-an). See Nemain Neane (NEEN). See Nene Neas (NES). See Nessa Neasa (NES-o). See Nessa Neave (NEEV). See Niamh Neaveh. See Nevaeh Nebet-Het (NEB-et-HET). See Nephthys Nebula (NEB-yul-o) Nectar (NEK-tor) Nectaria (nek-TAH-ree-a). See Nectar Nedusia (no-DOO-see-o) Neela (NEE-lo). See Nila Neelam (NEE-lam). See Nilam Neema (NEE-mo) Neese (NEES). See Nice Nefer (nef-or) Nefertiti (ne-for-TEE-tee). See Nefer Nefyn (ne-vin) Nehalennia (nay-ha-LEN-nee-o) Neifile (nay-FEE-lay) Neit (NET) Neith (NET) Nekayah (no-KAY-o) Net. See Nell Nelda (NEL-do) Nelka (NEL-ko) Nell Nelle. See Nell Nellie Nelly. See Nellie

Nelumbo (no-LUM-bo) Nelya (NEL-yo). See Yelena Nemain (NEV-an) Neman (NEV-an). See Nemain Nemesis (NE-mo-sis) Nemetona (ne-me TO-no) Nemon (NEV-on). See Nemain Nena (NE-no). See Nina Nene

(NEEN) Nenet (ne-net). See Naunet Nenhellenia (NEN-hel-LEN-nee-o).
See Nehalennia Nenia (NEN-ee-o) Nepenthe (no-PENTH-ee) Nephele
(NEF-a-lee) Nephthys (NEF-this) Neraida (no-RI-do) Nereis (n3-RAY-is)
Nergis (nor-GEES) Nerida (NE-ri-6) Nerilly (NE-ri-lee). See Nareli Nerina
(no-REE-no) Nerine (no-REE-nee/no-REEN) Nerine n3-REEN. See Nerina
Nerissa (no-RIS-o) Neroli (NE-ra-lee) Nerthus (NERTH-3s) Nerys (NE-ris)
Nesaea (no-SEE-a) Nesrin (nos-REEN). See Nasrin Ness. See Nessa Nessa
(NES-a) Nessie Nessv. See Ncssie Nest (NEST) Nesta (NES-to). See Nest
Net (NET). See Neith Netta (NE-t3). See Janet, Nettie Nettie Nettle Nevada
(no-VAH-do) Nevaeh Neve (NEEV). See Niamh Neveah. See Nevaeh
Nevena (NE-vo-no) Nevenka (NE-von-ko). See Nevena Neving (ne-vin).
See Nefyn Newlina (nyoo-LEE-no). See Nolvonn Newlyn (NYOO-lin).
See Nolvonn



Aaden (AY-dən). *See* Aidan
Aard (AHRD). *See* Aarde
Aarde (AHR-də)
Aarne (AHR-nə). *See* Arnold
Aaron (AIR-ən, A-rən)
Aatami (AH-tə-mee). *See* Adam
Abaeus (ə-BEE-əs)
Aban (ah-BAHN)
Abán (AY-bawn). *See* Abban
Abaris (ə-BA-ris)
Abathur (a-bə-THŪR)
Abatur (a-bə-THŪR). *See* Abathur
Abban (AY-van)
Abdiel (AB-dee-əl)
Abdullah (ab-DUL-a). *See* Abdiel
Abe (AYB). *See* Abraham
Abel (AY-bəl)
Abelio (ə-BEE-lee-ō). *See* Afallach
Abner (AB-nər)
Abracax (ə-BRAKkaks). *See* Abraxas
Abraham (AY-brə-həm)
Abram (AY-bram). *See* Abraham
Abbrasax (ə-BRAS-aks). *See* Abraxas
Abraxas (ə-BRAK-səs)
Absalom (AB-sə-ləm)

Abū Sīnā (A-boo SEE-nah). *See* Avicenna

Acelin (AY-sə-lin)

Acer (AY-sər)

Acestes (ə-SES-teez)

Achates (ə-KAH-teez)

Achille (A-sheel/a-KEEL-ay). *See*

Achilles

Achilles (ə-KIL-eez)

Acis (AS-is/A-kis)

Aconite (A-kən-īt)

Acorn

Adad (A-dad). *See* Hadad

Adair (ə-DAIR)

Adalberht (A-dal-BERKHT). *See*

Albert

Adalfuns (A-dal-FUNS). *See*

Alphonso

Adalmar (A-dal-MAHR). *See* Almira

Adalwulf (A-dal-WULF). *See* Adolphus

Adam

Adamastor (a-də-MAS-tər)

Adamo (a-DAH-mō). *See* Adam

Adamu (A-da-moo). *See* Adam

Adán (a-DAN). *See* Adam

Adan (AY-dən). *See* Aidan
Adão (a-dow). *See* Adam
Adda (ATH-a). *See* Adam
Addie
Addison
Addy. *See* Addie
Addyson. *See* Addison
Ade (AYD/A-day)
Adebayo (a-də-BAY-ō). *See* Ade
Adedayo (a-də-DAY-ō). *See* Ade
Adelbert (A-dəl-bərt). *See* Albert,
Delbert
Aderyn (a-DE-rin)
Ádhamh (AH-həv). *See* Adam
Àdhamh (AH-həv). *See* Adam
Adi (A-dee)
Adie (AY-dee). *See* Adrian
Aditya (a-DIT-yə)
Admetus (ad-MEE-təs)
Adohi (ah-dō-hee)
Adolf. *See* Adolphus
Adolphe (a-DOLF). *See* Adolphus
Adolphus (ə-DOL-fəs)
Adonai (A-don-ī). *See* Adonis
Adonis (ə-DŌ-nis/ə-DON-is)
Adrian

Adriel (AD-ree-el)
 Æbba (EB-bə). *See* Ebba
 Aed (EE). *See* Aodh
 Áed (EE). *See* Aodh, Malachy
 Áedán (EE-dawn). *See* Aidan
 Aedd (ĪTH)
 Aeddan (ay-than)
 Aeddon (ay-than). *See* Aeddan
 Æðelbeorht (ATH-əl-bay-ætkt). *See*
 Ethelbert
 Æðelmær (ATH-əl-mair). *See* Aylmer
 Æðelræd (ATH-əl-raid). *See* Ethelred
 Æðelric (ATH-əl-rich). *See* Elfric
 Æðelstan (ATH-əl-stahn). *See* Athel-
 stan
 Æðelwine (ATH-əl-win-ə). *See*
 Aylmer, Alwin
 Aectes (ee-EE-teez)
 Aegaeon (ə-JEE-ən). *See* Aegeon
 Aegeon (ə-JEE-ən)
 Aegeus (ə-JEE-əs)
 Aegidius (ə-JID-ee-əs). *See* Giles
 Ægil (A-gil). *See* Egil
 Aegion (ə-JEE-ən). *See* Aegeon
 Aegir (U-gir)
 Aegyptus (ə-JIP-təs). *See* Egypt
 Ælf (ALF). *See* Elf
 Ælfa (AL-və). *See* Elf
 Ælfgar (ALF-gahr). *See* Elgar
 Ælfger (ALF-gayr). *See* Elgar
 Ælfhere (ALF-he-rə). *See* Alvar
 Ælfræd (ALF-raid). *See* Alfred
 Ælfric (ALF-rich). *See* Alfric, Elfric
 Ælfriþ (ALF-rith). *See* Alfred
 Ælfwine (ALF-win-ə). *See* Alwin,
 Aylwin, Alpin
 Ælgar (AL-gahr). *See* Elgar
 Aelhaearn (ayl-HAY-arn)
 Aelius (EE-lee-əs). *See* Eliana
 Aemilian (ə-MEE-lee-ən)
 Aemilianus (ə-mee-lee-AH-nəs). *See*
 Aemilian, Emlyn
 Aemilius (ə-MEE-lee-əs)
 Aemylus (EE-mi-ləs). *See* Aemilius
 Aeneas (ə-NEE-əs/ee-NEE-əs)
 Aengus (EEN-gəs). *See* Angus
 Áengus (EEN-gəs). *See* Angus
 Aeon (EE-ən)
 Æon (EE-ən). *See* Aeon

Aer (AIR)
 Aere (AIR). *See* Air
 Aerial (AIR-ee-əl)
 Aesculapius (ee-skyoo-LAY-pee-əs).
 See Asclepius
 Aestival (ES-ti-vəl)
 Aeternus (ə-TURN-əs). *See* Edern
 Aether (EE-thər)
 Aethiops (EE-thee-əps). *See* Ethiopia
 Aethnen (īth-nen)
 Afallach (ə-VALH-akh)
 Afan (a-van)
 Afarwy (a-VAHR-wee)
 Aflach (AV-lakh). *See* Afallach
 Agamemnon (a-gə-MEM-non)
 Agar (AY-gahr)
 Agaric (ə-GAH-rik)
 Agate (A-gət)
 Agathon (AG-ə-thən)
 Agetor (ə-JEE-tər)
 Agila (A-gil-ə). *See* Egil
 Agilmar (A-gil-MAHR). *See* Aylmer
 Agni (AG-nee)
 Agrimony (AG-rə-mən-ee)
 Ah (AHH). *See* Amasis
 Ahab (AY-hab)
 Ahasuerus (ə-has-oo-AIR-əs)
 Ahiram (A-hī-ram). *See* Hiram
 Ahmose (ah-MŌ-sə). *See* Amasis
 Ahura Mazda (ə-HŪR-ə MAZ-də).
 See Aramazd
 Aias (I-as). *See* Ajax
 Aibhne (EV-nyə)
 Aidan (AY-dən)
 Aiden (AY-dən). *See* Aidan
 Aidos (ī-dos)
 Aigil (E-gil). *See* Egil
 Aiguptos (ī-GUP-təs). *See* Egypt
 Aihran (ī-ran). *See* Aaron
 Ailbhe (AL-va)
 Ailemar (AY-lə-mar). *See* Aylmer
 Ailfyw (ayl-vyoo). *See* Eilfyw
 Ailill (AL-yil)
 Ailmer (AYL-mər). *See* Aylmer
 Ailvyw (ayl-vyoo). *See* Eilfyw
 Aimé (ay-MEE). *See* Amias, Esmé
 Aimo (Ī-mō)
 Aindrea (AWN-dray-ə). *See* Andrew
 Aindréas (AWN-dray-əs). *See* Andrew

Aindriú (AWN-dree-oo). *See* Andrew
 Ainslee. *See* Ainsley
 Ainsleigh. *See* Ainsley
 Ainsley
 Ainslie. *See* Ainsley
 Air
 Aire (AIR)
 Aita (ī-ta)
 Aither (I-thər). *See* Aether
 Aitor (ī-TAWR)
 Aizack (I-zak)
 Ajax (AY-jaks)
 Aje (AJ-ay)
 Akagamunas (a-ka-GA-mun-as). *See*
 Agamemnon
 Akamu (a-KAM-oo). *See* Adam
 Akasha (ə-KASH-ə)
 Akhenaten (ah-kən-AH-tən). *See*
 Aten
 Akim (a-KEEM). *See* Joachim
 Akira (A-keer-a)
 Ákos (AH-kōsh)
 Al. *See* Albert, Alexander
 Ala” ad-Din (a-lah ad-DEEN). *See*
 Aladdin
 Alabaster (a-lə-BAS-tər)
 Aladdin (ə-LAD-in)
 Alan
 Alaric (AL-ə-rik)
 Alaricus (ə-LA-ree-kəs). *See* Alaric
 Alasdair (AL-as-tər). *See* Alastair
 Alastair (AL-əs-tər)
 Alastar (AL-əs-tər). *See* Alexander
 Alastor (ə-LAS-tawr)
 Alator (ə-LAH-tawr)
 Alaunus (ə-LOWN-əs). *See* Alan
 Alaw (A-low)
 Alawn (A-lown)
 Alba (AL-bə/OL-bə)
 Alban (OL-bən/AL-ban)
 Albanus (ol-BAH-nə-us). *See* Alban
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Amalric (A-mal-REEk). *See* Almeric
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 Anatole (a-na-TŌL)
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 Amlodd (am-LOTH). *See* Amlawdd
 Ammon (am-ON). *See* Amun
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 Amory (AY-mə-ree). *See* Emery
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Aqua (A-kwə)
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Arcturus (ahrk-TŪ-rəs)
Ardal (AHR-dahl)
Arden (AHR-dən)
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 Aristander (a-rə-STAN-dər)
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 Armand (ahr-MON). *See* Herman,
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 Arnaldo (ahr-NAL-dō). *See* Arnold
 Arnallt (ahr-NALHT). *See* Arnold
 Arnaud (ahr-NO). *See* Arnold
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 Arndt (AHRNT). *See* Arnold
 Arne (AHR-nə). *See* Arnold
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 Arofan (ahr-O-van)
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 Arold (A-rəld). *See* Harold
 Aron (A-rən). *See* Aaron
 Árpád (Ahr-pahd)
 Arrakis (a-RA-kis)
 Arran (A-rən)
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 Artaius (ahr-TĪ-əs)
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 Arthen (ahr-then)
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 Artor (AHR-tawr). *See* Arthur
 Artorius (ahr-TAW-ree-əs). *See*
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 Arttu (AHRT-too). *See* Arthur
 Artturi (AHRT-too-ree). *See* Arthur
 Artur (AHR-toor). *See* Arthur
 Arturo (ahr-TOO-rō). *See* Arthur
 Arun (ə-ROON/A-rən)
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 Aten (AH-tən)
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 Atlante (at-LAN-tay). *See* Atlantes
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 Aubin (AW-bin). *See* Albin
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 Audagar (AW-də-gahr). *See* Oger
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 Auðun (AWTH-oon). *See* Edwin
 Augur (AW-gər)
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 Aurelian
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Avenell (AV-ə-nəl). *See* Avenel
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 Averel (AV-ə-rəl). *See* Averil
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 Avi (AH-vee). *See* Avice
 Avicenna (a-vee-CHAY-nə)
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 Awel (a-wel)
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 Azimuth (AZ-ee-məth)
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 DAW-rəs). *See* Asclepiodotus
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 Asher (ASH-ər)
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 pəl). *See* Ashurbanipal
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 Aston (AS-tən)
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 Asvald (AS-wald). *See* Oswald
 Atar (ah-TAHR). *See* Azar

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 Benjie (BEN-jee). *See* Benjamin
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 Benneit (BEN-ayt). *See* Benedict
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 Bennett (BEN-ət). *See* Bennet
 Bennie. *See* Benjamin
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Brambling
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Brandubh (bran-duv)
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Braveheart
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Brayden (BRAY-dən). *See* Braden
Braye (BRAY). *See* Bray
Braylen (BRAY-lən). *See* Braden
Braylon (BRAY-lən). *See* Braden
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Bimbola (beem-bō-la). *See* Abimbola
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Bjørn (bee-AWRN). *See* Beorn
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Blade
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Blaise (BLAYZ)
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Blane (BLAYN)
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Błażej (BWA-zhay). *See* Blaise
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Bledri (bled-ree)
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Bleiddrig (blayth-rig). *See* Bledri
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Blethyn (BLETH-in). *See* Bleddyn
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Blevin (BLE-vin). *See* Bleddyn
Blizzard



Lists of Names
by Theme

Flowers, Herbs, and Trees

Aaron ♂

Acacia ♀

Acer ♂ ♀

Achillea ♀

Aconite ♂ ♀

Acorn ♂ ♀

Actaea ♀

Adair ♂ ♀

Adelia ♀

Adohi ♂

Aeron ♀

Aeronen ♀

Aeronwen ♀

Aeronwy ♀

Aethnen ♀ ♂

Afallach ♂

Agar ♂

Agaric ♂

Agave ♀

Agrimony ♂ ♀

Alchemilla ♀

Alder ♂ ♀

Alkanet ♂ ♀

Almond ♂ ♀

Alnus ♂ ♀

Aloe ♀ ♂

Althea, Althaea ♀

Alula ♀

Amanita ♀

Amaranth ♀ ♂

Amarantha ♀

Amaryllis ♀

Amicia ♀

Amicia ♀

Amranwen ♀

Anahí ♀

Anchusa ♀

Anemone ♀

Angelica ♀

Anona ♀

Anthea ♀

Anthion ♂

Anthony ♂

Apple ♀ ♂

Árpád ♂

Artemisia ♀

Arundel ♂ ♀

Asclepias ♂ ♀

Ash, Ashe ♂ ♀

Ashley, Ashleigh ♀ ♂

Ashton ♂ ♀

Askr ♂

Aspen ♂ ♀

Asphodel ♂ ♀

Aster ♀ ♂

Astrophora ♀

Ataya ♀ ♂

Athanasia ♀

Atys ♂

Auburn ♀ ♂

Avens ♂ ♀

Ayanna ♀

Ayla ♀

Balm ♂ ♀

Balsam ♂ ♀

Banadl ♂ ♀

Banadlwedd ♀

Bao ♀ ♂

Barton ♂

Basil ♂ ♀

Bay ♀ ♂

Baya ♀ ♂

Beech ♀ ♂

Begonia ♀

Belladonna ♀

Bellonaria ♀
Bergamot ♂ ♀
Berry ♀ ♂
Beth ♀ ♂
Betony ♀ ♂
Betula ♀
Birch ♀ ♂
Bistort ♂ ♀
Bláithín ♀
Blanchefleur ♀
Bláth ♀
Bláthin ♀
Bláthnaid ♀
Blodeuedd ♀
Blodeuwedd ♀
Blodwedd ♀
Blodwen ♀
Blodyn ♀
Blossom ♀
Bluebell ♀
Bopha ♀
Borage ♂ ♀
Boswellia ♀
Bracken ♂ ♀
Bryonia ♀
Bryony ♀

Bud ♂ ♀
Buttercup ♀
Calamint ♀
Calamintha ♀
Calla ♀
Calluna ♀
Camellia ♀
Camomile ♀ ♂
Campion ♂ ♀
Canna ♀
Caraway ♂ ♀
Carnation ♂ ♀
Cassia ♀
Castor ♂
Catanance ♀
Cedar ♂ ♀
Cedreatis ♀
Ceirios ♀
Celandine ♀
Celyn ♂ ♀
Centaury ♀ ♂
Chamomile ♀ ♂
Charity ♀
Cherry ♀
Chervil ♀ ♂
Chesney ♂

Chicory ♂ ♀
China ♀ ♂
Chloe ♀
Chocolate ♀ ♂
Chrysanthea ♀
Chrysanthemum ♀
Cicely ♀
Citron ♂ ♀
Citrus ♂ ♀
Clary ♀ ♂
Clematis ♀
Clove ♀ ♂
Clover ♀ ♂
Coll ♂
Collen ♂ ♀
Columbine ♀
Comfrey ♂ ♀
Conifer ♂ ♀
Coracesia ♀
Coriander ♂ ♀
Cornel ♂ ♀
Cornelian ♂ ♀
Cornflower ♀
Corylus ♂ ♀
Crina ♀
Crocus ♀ ♂
Cullen ♂
Cumin ♂ ♀
Cyclamen ♀
Cydon ♂
Cydonia ♀
Cypress ♀ ♂
Daffodil ♀
Dahlia ♀
Daisy ♀
Dandelion ♀ ♂
Dara ♂ ♀
Darnel ♂ ♀
Daronia ♀
Daronwy ♂ ♀
Darran ♂
Dart ♂
Darwen ♂ ♀
Datura ♀
Delaney ♀ ♂
Derfael ♂
Derwen ♀ ♂
Derwent ♂
Dill ♀ ♂

Dittany ♀
Dodola ♀
Doireann ♀
Dorian ♂ ♀
Dracaena ♀
Druantia ♀
Druid ♂ ♀
Drusilla ♀
Drusus ♂
Duir ♂
Dryops ♂
Drysi ♀
Eadha ♀ ♂
Eber ♂
Ebony ♀
Echinacea ♀
Edelweiss ♀
Eglantine ♀
Eirlys ♀
Elanor ♀
Elder ♂ ♀
Elderberry ♀
Elderflower ♀
Ellærn ♀
Ellen ♀
Elm ♂ ♀
Embla ♀
Eoghan ♂
Erica ♀
Etiona ♀
Euphrasia ♀
Euros ♂ ♀
Fay ♀ ♂
Fearn ♀ ♂
Felicia ♀
Fennel ♂ ♀
Fern ♀
Ferula ♀
Féthnaid ♀
Ffion ♀
Fflur ♀
Fidan ♀
Fiorella ♀
Fir ♂ ♀
Flax ♂ ♀
Fleur ♀
Fleur-de-lys ♀
Flora ♀
Florence ♀ ♂

Florentia ♀
Florentina ♀
Floretta ♀
Florian ♂ ♀
Floriana ♀
Florida ♀
Florinda ♀
Florisdelfa ♀
Floure ♀
Flower ♀
Flowery ♀
Fluellen ♂ ♀
Forgetmenot ♀
Forsythia ♀
Foxglove ♀ ♂
Frankincense ♀ ♂
Fraser ♂
Freesia ♀
Fritillary ♀
Fuchsia ♀
Gage ♂
Galanthis ♀
Ganbold ♂
Gardenia ♀
Gaura ♀
Gazania ♀
Genista ♀
Gentian ♀ ♂
Germander ♂ ♀
Gilberta ♀
Gonxhe ♀
Gorse ♂ ♀
Gort ♂ ♀
Guelder ♀ ♂
Gulnar ♀
Gulpari ♀
Gulzar ♀
Gwenonwy ♀
Gwern ♂ ♀
Hadassah ♀
Harebell ♀
Hawthorn ♂ ♀
Hazel ♀ ♂
Heather ♀
Hebe ♀
Herb ♂ ♀
Herla ♂
Hesperis ♀
Hoa ♀

Holly ♀
Honesty ♀
Honeysuckle ♀
Hupi ♀ ♂
Hyacinth ♀ ♂
Hypericon ♂
Hyssop ♂ ♀
Ianthé ♀
Ifor ♂
Ilan ♂
Imp ♂ ♀
Iobhar ♂
Iona ♀
Iris ♀
Ivar ♂
Ive ♀ ♂
Ivetta ♀
Ivo ♂
Ivor ♂
Ivy ♀
Jacaranda ♀
Jacob ♂
Jarri ♂
Jasmine ♀
Java ♀
Jessamine ♀
Jessenia ♀
Jonquil ♀
Joshua ♂
Jujube ♂ ♀
Jura ♀ ♂
Kamala ♀
Kiefer ♂
Kiki ♀
Killarney ♂ ♀
Klethra, Klethre ♀
Laburnum ♀
Lafayette ♂ ♀
Lan ♀
Larch ♀
Larkspur ♀ ♂
Laser ♂
Laune ♀ ♂
Laura ♀
Laurel ♀
Lavender ♀ ♂
Laverne ♀ ♂
Lawrence ♂
Leaf ♂ ♀

Leandra ♀
Lehua ♀
Lei ♂ ♀
Lemon ♀ ♂
Leslie ♂ ♀
Lian ♀ ♂
Liatris ♀
Lilac ♀
Lily ♀
Lina ♀
Linden ♂ ♀
Linnaeus ♂
Linnea ♀
Lobelia ♀
Lotus ♀ ♂
Lovage ♀ ♂
Lua ♀
Lubna ♀
Luis ♂ ♀
Luma ♀
Lunaria ♀
Lupin ♀
Lyvennet ♂ ♀
Madoka ♀
Magnolia ♀
Mahogany ♀ ♂
Mallow ♀ ♂
Malva ♀
Mandragon ♂
Mandragora ♀
Mandrake ♂ ♀
Manuka ♀
Maple ♀ ♂
Marguerite ♀
Marigold ♀
Marjolaine ♀
Marjoram ♀ ♂
Mayflower ♀
Meadow ♀ ♂
Meadowsweet ♀
Meilys ♀
Mentha ♀
Mignonette ♀
Miki ♀
Mimosa ♀
Mint ♂
Minty ♀ ♂
Mistletoe ♀ ♂
Monarda ♀

Monina ♀
Moonbeam ♀
Morinda ♀
Moschatel ♂ ♀
Moschatella ♀
Moss ♂ ♀
Mulan ♀
Mulberry ♀
Mullein ♂ ♀
Myrrh ♂ ♀
Myrrha ♀
Myrrhis ♀
Myrtle ♀
Nairn ♂ ♀
Nao ♂ ♀
Nara ♂ ♀
Narcissa ♀
Narcissus ♂
Nash ♂
Naskila ♀
Nelumbo ♀
Nene ♂ ♀
Nerine ♀
Neroli ♀
Nettle ♀ ♂
Ngaio ♀
Nigella ♀
Nightshade ♂ ♀
Ninian ♂
Niniana ♀
Niniane ♀
Nion ♂ ♀
Nomedra ♀
Nuying ♀
Oak ♂ ♀
Ogden ♂
Oghma ♂
Oleander ♀ ♂
Olive ♀
Oliver ♂
Onnen ♀
Orange ♀ ♂
Orchid ♀
Oren ♂
Padma ♀
Padmavati ♀
Padmini ♀
Paeon ♂ ♀
Paeonia ♀

Palm ♂ ♀
Palma ♀
Palmer ♂
Palmyra ♀
Panacea ♀
Pansy ♀
Papaver ♂ ♀
Papaya ♀
Parsley ♀ ♂
Parthenice ♀
Passiflora ♀
Passionflower ♀
Peach ♀ ♂
Pear ♀ ♂
Pellitory ♀ ♂
Pema ♀
Peony ♀
Pepper ♀ ♂
Perina ♀
Periwinkle ♀ ♂
Perry ♂ ♀
Persicaria ♀
Persimmon ♂ ♀
Petal ♀
Petunia ♀
Philyra ♀
Phlox ♀ ♂
Phyllis ♀
Pimpernel ♀ ♂
Pine ♂ ♀
Pink ♀ ♂
Pipinella ♀
Plantagenet ♂
Plum ♀ ♂
Pomona ♀
Poppy ♀
Posy ♀
Potentilla ♀
Premlata ♀
Primrose ♀
Primula ♀
Prunella ♀
Pualani ♀
Purslane ♂ ♀
Pyramus ♂
Qi ♂ ♀
Quert ♂ ♀
Quince ♂ ♀
Rai ♂

Randa ♀
Rapunzel ♀
Raspberry ♀ ♂
Reed ♂
Rei ♀ ♂
Reseda ♀
Rhatany ♀ ♂
Rhoa ♀
Rika ♀
Riley ♂ ♀
Robinia ♀
Robur ♂
Rock ♂
Rocket ♂ ♀
Rook ♂
Rosa ♀
Rose ♀
Rosebay ♀
Roselani ♀
Rosemary ♀
Rosetta ♀
Rosie ♀
Rosslyn ♂ ♀
Rowan ♂ ♀
Royal ♂
Rudbeckia ♀
Rue ♀ ♂
Ruis ♀ ♂
Rukma ♀
Ruolan ♀
Rush ♂
Ruta ♀
Rye ♂ ♀
Rylan ♂
Sage ♂ ♀
Saille ♀ ♂
St. John ♂
Salvia ♀
Samara ♀
Sap ♂ ♀
Scilla ♀
Sciothnait ♀
Semiramis ♀
Sesame ♀ ♂
Shasta ♀ ♂
Siderion ♂
Sito ♀
Snowdrop ♀
Sorrel ♀ ♂

Spica ♀
Spruce ♂
Storax ♂ ♀
Strawberry ♀ ♂
Su ♀
Sunflower ♀
Susan ♀
Susannah ♀
Sweetpea ♀
Tamarind ♀
Tamarinth ♀
Tamarisk ♀ ♂
Tan ♀ ♂
Tansy ♀
Teak ♂ ♀
Tegeirian ♀ ♂
Thistle ♀ ♂
Thorn ♂ ♀
Thrift ♀ ♂
Thyme ♀ ♂
Tiarella ♀
Tigerlily ♀
Tinne ♀ ♂
Tsila ♀
Tulip ♀
Tulsi ♀ ♂
Turia ♀
Ullr ♂
Valerian ♂
Valmai ♀
Vanda ♀
Vanilla ♀
Vere ♂
Verne ♂
Vernon ♂
Veronica ♀
Verticordia ♀
Vertumnus ♂
Vervain ♂ ♀
Vetch ♂
Violet ♀
Viorel ♂
Virág ♀
Wand ♂ ♀
Willoughby ♂ ♀
Willow ♀
Willowherb ♀
Windflower ♀
Wintergreen ♂ ♀

Wisteria ♀
Witchen ♀
Witcher ♂ ♀
Woodruff ♂ ♀
Woody ♂
Wych ♀
Xochitl ♀
Yarrow ♂ ♀
Yasmin, Yasmine ♀
Yesenia ♀
Yew ♂ ♀
Yggdrasil ♂ ♀
York ♂ ♀
Yves ♂
Yvette ♀
Ywen ♀ ♂
Zea ♀
Zeal ♂ ♀
Zenobia ♀
Zenry ♂ ♀
Zinnia ♀

Stones and Metals

Achates ♂
Agate ♂ ♀
Alabaster ♂
Alan, Allan ♂
Alchemilla ♀
Alchemy ♂ ♀
Alkahest ♂ ♀
Altin ♂
Altinai ♀
Amber ♀
Amethyst ♀
Ametrine ♀ ♂
Ammonite ♂ ♀
Aneirin, Aneurin ♂
Aquamarine ♀
Aranka ♀
Argent ♂ ♀
Argenta, Argentea ♀
Argentina ♀
Ariana ♀
Ariannell ♀
Arianrhod ♀
Arianwen ♀
Arjuna, Arjun ♂

Armigil ♀
Arta ♀ ♂
Aston ♂
Athelstan ♂
Aur ♀
Aurddolen ♀
Aurea ♀
Aurelia ♀
Aurelian ♂
Aurelius ♂
Aureole ♀
Auriel, Auriol ♂ ♀
Aventurine ♀ ♂
Azure ♂ ♀
Azurite ♂ ♀
Basalt ♂
Beryl ♀
Birch ♀ ♂
Blade ♂
Calcedon ♂
Canopus ♂
Carnelian ♂ ♀
Cephas ♂
Cerne ♂
Chalcedony ♀ ♂
Chantal ♀
Chert ♂
Chrysalis ♀ ♂
Chrysanthea ♀
Chrysanthemum ♀
Chrysogon ♀ ♂
Chrysolite ♀
Chrysolite ♀
Cinnabar ♂ ♀
Citrine ♀ ♂
Clint ♂
Cloud, Cloude ♀ ♂
Coal ♂
Copper ♂ ♀
Coral ♀
Cornelian ♂ ♀
Craig ♂
Cressida ♀
Crisiant ♀
Crocea ♀
Cromlech ♂
Crystal ♀
Danaë ♀
Dewdrop ♀

Diamond ♀ ♂
Dolmen ♂
Dorje ♂
Dunstan ♂
Ebenezer ♂
Elanor ♀
Elatha, Eladha ♂
Electra ♀
Electron ♂
Eliphaz ♂
Elixir ♂ ♀
Eloy ♂
Elvan ♂ ♀
Emerald ♀
Emery ♂ ♀
Eurfron ♀
Euros ♂ ♀
Euroswydd ♂
Eysteinn ♂
Feldspar ♂
Fell ♂
Fidda ♀
Firestone ♂
Fizza ♀
Flavia ♀
Flavian ♂
Flaviana ♀
Flavius ♂
Flint ♂
Galaxy ♂ ♀
Galena ♀
Garnet ♂ ♀
Gold ♂ ♀
Golda ♀
Goldberry ♀
Golden ♀ ♂
Goldfinch ♀
Goldie ♀ ♂
Goldilocks ♀
Goldwin ♂
Granite ♂
Haldor ♂
Hallam ♂
Hammer ♂
Harlan ♂ ♀
Hephaestus ♂
Honesty ♀
Hyacinth ♀ ♂
Iron ♂

Ismenia ♀
Jacinth ♀ ♂
Jade ♀ ♂
Jasper ♂
Jet ♂ ♀
Jewel ♀
Jin ♂
Jinhai ♂
Junner ♂
Kailish ♂
Keo ♂ ♀
Kim ♀ ♂
Krystal ♀
Kúl ♂ ♀
Laya ♀
Lazuli ♀ ♂
Lludd ♂
Lorelei ♀
Lunaria ♀
Mace ♂ ♀
Malachite ♂ ♀
Marigold ♀
Mason ♂
Mercury ♂ ♀
Metella ♀
Mica ♀ ♂
Midas ♂
Mina ♀
Moon ♀
Muna ♀
Nia ♀
Nilam ♀
Nuada ♂
Nusku ♂
Obsidian ♂ ♀
Olivine ♀ ♂
Onyx ♀ ♂
Opal ♀
Orcanet ♀ ♂
Ore ♂ ♀
Oretta ♀
Oriole ♀
Orla ♀
Palila ♀
Parsley ♀ ♂
Pearl ♀
Pebbles ♀
Pepita ♀
Peridot ♀ ♂

Perry ♂ ♀
Peter ♂
Petra ♀
Petrel ♀ ♂
Petroc ♂
Petronella ♀
Petronia ♀
Petronilla ♀
Petronius ♂
Petroseline ♀
Petruchio ♂
Petteril ♂
Pewter ♂ ♀
Porphyry ♂ ♀
Potentilla ♀
Quartz ♂ ♀
Ravenna ♀
Rochelle ♀
Rock ♂
Ruby ♀
Rukma ♀
Rukmini ♀
Sapphire ♀
Sard ♂ ♀
Sardonyx ♂ ♀
Sen ♂ ♀
Serpentine ♀ ♂
Siderion ♂
Silver ♂ ♀
Slate ♂ ♀
Sovann ♂ ♀
Stanley ♂
Steel ♂
Stone ♂ ♀
Sterling ♂
Sunakai ♀
Talayeh ♀
Telchis ♂
Temir ♂
Thurstan ♂
Tin ♂
Topaz ♀
Torc ♂
Torquatus ♂
Torque ♂
Tourmaline ♀ ♂
Treasure ♀ ♂
Turquoise ♀ ♂
Uisdean ♂

Urai ♀
Wand ♂ ♀
Whinstone ♂
Winston ♂
Wystan ♂
Xanthe ♀
Ymir ♂
Zarina ♀
Zinc ♂ ♀
Zircon ♂ ♀
Zlata ♀
Zlatan ♂
Zoltan ♂
Zophiel ♂

The Moon

Aglaonice ♀
Aidana ♀
Aidos ♂
Alcmene, Alcmena ♀
Alitta ♀
Aloe ♀ ♂
Altinai ♀
Amasis ♂
Amunet ♀
Anumati ♀
Argent ♂ ♀
Argenta, Argentea ♀
Argentina ♀
Ariana ♀
Ariannell ♀
Arianrhod ♀
Arianwen ♀
Artemis ♀ ♂
Artemisia ♀
Ayberk ♂
Aygül ♀
Ayla ♀
Aysel ♀
Aysu ♀
Badr ♂
Balm ♂ ♀
Botolph ♂
Bulan ♂ ♀
Camellia ♀
Candela ♀
Canidia ♀
Ceridwen ♀
Chan ♂

Chandra ♂ ♀
Chandrakant ♂
Chandrakanta ♀
Channary ♀
Choon ♀ ♂
Clary ♀ ♂
Col ♂ ♀
Corona ♀
Crescent ♂ ♀
Crescentia ♀
Crescentius ♂
Dawa ♂ ♀
Dew ♀ ♂
Diana ♀
Dude ♂ ♀
Dulse ♀
Eclipse ♀ ♂
Elatha, Eladha ♂
Endymion ♂
Erenay ♀
Esmeray ♀
Fei ♀ ♂
FeraY ♀
Folia ♀
Gealach ♀
Guadalupe ♀
Gülay ♀
Hala ♀
Hare ♀ ♂
Honesty ♀
Ilkay ♀ ♂
Iomlán ♂ ♀
Itzel ♀
Jaci ♀ ♂
Jantra ♀
Jarilo ♂
Jata ♀
Jehovah ♂
Jericho ♂ ♀
Jezanna ♀
Joh ♂
Junner ♂
Kanti ♀
Kiya ♀
Koray ♂
Láeg ♂
Lampedo ♀
Lena ♀
Levanah ♀

Lloegr ♂ ♀
Lloer ♀
Llorien ♂
Lua ♀
Luna ♀
Lunaria ♀
Lunary ♀
Lunette ♀
Mahasti ♀
Mahdiyeh ♀
Mahdokht ♀
Mahnaz ♀
Mahraz ♀
Mahsa ♀
Mahtab ♀
Mahzad ♀
Mallow ♀ ♂
Malva ♀
Máni ♂
Mehtap ♀
Meztli ♀
Mizuki ♀
Mona ♀
Monday ♀
Moon ♀
Moonbeam ♀
Moonlight ♀
Mwezi ♀ ♂
Myrrh ♂ ♀
Nanna ♂ ♀
Nidaba ♀
Nila ♀
Nilahasi ♀
Nimbe ♀
Nisaba ♀
Niyaka ♀ ♂
Njedzana ♀
Noctiluca ♀
Numenia ♀
Numenius ♂
Nuray ♀
Onwa ♀
Osram ♂
Panselinus ♂
Pearl ♀
Peony ♀
Perimede ♀
Poppy ♀
Prakash ♂

Proselenos ♀
Purnima ♀
Purslane ♂ ♀
Rajanikant ♂
Rakesh ♂
Ramachandra ♂
Rana ♀
Saran ♀
Selene ♀
Selina ♀
Şenay ♀
Shashi ♀
Sickle ♂ ♀
Silver ♂ ♀
Sin ♂
Tanith, Tanit ♀
Tolganai ♀
Tide ♂ ♀
Tulay ♀
Umbra ♀
Varuna ♂
Wax ♂ ♀
Willow ♀
Yahweh ♂
Yarikh ♂

The Sun

Abner ♂
Abraxas ♂
Acacia ♀
Aglaia ♀
Agni ♂
Aine ♀
Alitta ♀
Amber ♀
Amun ♂
Angelica ♀
Anwu ♂
Aoibhegréine ♀
Apollo ♂
Arthan ♂ ♀
Arun ♂
Aruna ♀
Bay ♀ ♂
Bee ♀ ♂
Bhaskar ♂
Blaze ♂ ♀
Cam ♂ ♀
Candor ♂ ♀

Carnation ♂ ♀
Catha ♀
Cayenne ♀ ♂
Cedar ♂ ♀
Celandine ♀
Centaury ♀ ♂
Cerah ♀ ♂
Chamomile ♀ ♂
Chicory ♂ ♀
Chrysanthemum ♀
Cinnamon ♂ ♀
Citrine ♀ ♂
Citron ♂ ♀
Clytie ♀
Col ♂ ♀
Cyrus ♂
Day ♀ ♂
Dinesh ♂
East ♂ ♀
Eclipse ♀ ♂
Elanor ♀
Eliana ♀
Enya ♀
Etain ♀
Europa ♀
Fiery ♂ ♀
Fire ♂ ♀
Flare ♂ ♀
Frankincense ♀ ♂
Gold ♂ ♀
Grian ♀
Guadalupe ♀
Hasi ♂ ♀
Heledd ♀
Helius ♂
Heulwen ♀
Honey ♀
Hunydd ♀
Hypericon ♂
Hyperion ♂
Isten ♂
Junner ♂
Kane ♂
Kem ♂ ♀
Leo ♂
Light ♂ ♀
Loxias ♂
Marduk ♂
Marigold ♀

Marisol ♀
Matahari ♀
Mehrnaz ♀
Mehry ♀
Mehrzad ♂
Meridian ♂ ♀
Midsummer ♂ ♀
Mistletoe ♀ ♂
Mithras ♂
Mitra ♂
Mogh Ruith ♂
Naran ♀
Natalie ♀
Neferkare ♂
Nergal ♂
Noel ♂ ♀
Nyima ♀
Oriana ♀
Oriande ♀
Orient ♂ ♀
Päivä ♀
Pasiphaë ♀
Peony ♀
Phaëthon ♂
Phoebus ♂
Phoenix ♂ ♀
Pine ♂ ♀
Prakash ♂
Pushan ♂
Rainsey ♂
Rana ♀
Ravi ♂
Reasmay ♂
Rosemary ♀
Rue ♀ ♂
Runo ♂
Ruta ♀
St. John ♂
Saulë ♀
Saulenë ♀
Sesame ♀ ♂
Shamash ♂
Shideh, Sheedeh ♀
Sól ♀
Sol ♀ ♂
Solar ♂ ♀
Solari ♀ ♂
Solaris ♂ ♀
Soleil ♀ ♂

Solifer ♂
Soligena ♀ ♂
Solstice ♂ ♀
Sorin ♂
Sorina ♀
Sulien ♂
Sulis ♀
Sun ♂ ♀
Sunbeam ♀
Sunday ♂ ♀
Sunflower ♀
Sunlight ♀
Sunna ♀
Sunny ♂ ♀
Sunshine ♀
Surya ♂
Tammuz ♂
Usil
Wala ♀
West ♂ ♀
Zia ♂ ♀
Zodiac ♂ ♀
Zorya ♂
Zuva ♀

Earth

Aarde ♂
Aardina ♀
Adam ♂
Adama ♀
Adamina ♀
Addie ♀ ♂
Addison ♀ ♂
Aegeon ♂
Ajax ♂
Ala ♀
Alchemy ♂ ♀
Alder ♂ ♀
Amalur ♀
Arawn ♂
Arianrhod ♀
Asherah ♀
Berry ♀ ♂
Boar ♂
Bona ♀
Canopus ♂
Capricorn ♀ ♂
Chamomile ♀ ♂
Chimon ♂

Chthonia ♀
Copper ♂ ♀
Cora ♀
Cronos ♂
Cydonia ♀
Demeter ♀
Deucalion ♂
Earth ♂ ♀
Eartha ♀
Éirne ♀
Ela ♀
Erda ♀
Ereshkigal ♀
Erin ♀
Ériu ♀
Fenora ♀
Fenrir ♂
Fionnúir ♀
Fjörgyn ♀
Gaetano ♂
Gaia ♀
Gaius ♂
Garnet ♂ ♀
George ♂ ♀
Georgette ♀
Georgia ♀
Georgiana ♀
Georgina ♀
Godiva ♀
Green ♂ ♀
Gróa ♀
Hecate ♀
Hibernia ♀
Hlodyn ♀
Honesty ♀
Honeysuckle ♀
Ingrid ♂
Itzel ♀
Iwerydd ♀
Jara ♀
Jata ♀
Jumal ♂
Khem ♂
Khnum ♂
Kishar ♀
Latiaran ♀
Leto ♀
Magnolia ♀
Nerthus ♀

Ninhursag ♀
Nora ♀
North ♂ ♀
Octavian ♂
Octavius ♂
Olive ♀
Oliver ♂
Olivia ♀
Orchil ♀
Persephone ♀
Poseidon ♂
Primrose ♀
Pythia ♀
Pythius ♂
Python ♀
Qi ♂ ♀
Quince ♂ ♀
Rhea ♀
Ruby ♀
Semele ♀
Serpens ♂
Serpent ♂ ♀
Serpentine ♀ ♂
Snake ♂ ♀
Tailte ♀
Tanah ♂ ♀
Taurus ♂ ♀
Terra ♀
Terran ♂ ♀
Tlalli ♀
Triptolemus ♂
Vasudha ♀
Vertumnus ♂
Vervain ♂ ♀
Virgo ♀
Ymir ♂
Xylina ♀
Zalmoxis ♂
Zemelo ♀
Zemlya ♀
Zemyna ♀
Zolla ♀
Zona ♀

Air

Abaris ♂
Abel ♂
Acacia ♀
Aer, Aere ♂ ♀

Aerial ♀ ♂
Aether, Aither ♂ ♀
Aethra ♀
Agaric ♂
Agrimony ♂ ♀
Air, Aire ♂ ♀
Alizée ♀
Almond ♂ ♀
Alvina ♀
Amaranth ♀ ♂
Amun ♂
Amunet ♀
Anemone ♀
Anil ♂
Anila ♀
Anima ♀
Anise, Annise ♀
Aquarius ♂ ♀
Aria ♀
Ariel ♂ ♀
Arietta ♀
Arrow ♂ ♀
Aspen ♂ ♀
Aura ♀
Borage ♂ ♀
Boreas ♂
Bracken ♂ ♀
Breeze ♀ ♂
Briza ♀
Caraway ♂ ♀
Cathbad ♂
Chicory ♂ ♀
Chione ♀
Citron ♂ ♀
Clover ♀ ♂
Crassus ♂
Dandelion ♀ ♂
East ♂ ♀
Eda ♀
Enlil ♂
Eurus ♂
Eyre ♂ ♀
Favonius ♂
Feather ♀ ♂
Feng ♂
Féthnaid ♀
Gale ♀ ♂
Gemini ♀ ♂
Genista ♀

Gossamer ♀
Hadad ♂
Hazel ♀ ♂
Honey ♀
Ilma ♀
Iska ♀
Keith ♂
Kestrel ♀ ♂
Lilith ♀
Mace ♂ ♀
Maple ♀ ♂
Marjoram ♀ ♂
Meadowsweet ♀
Meteor ♂
Mint ♂ ♀
Mist ♂ ♀
Mistletoe ♀ ♂
Misty ♀
Mulberry ♀
Nasim ♂ ♀
Ninlil ♀
Njord ♂
Notus ♂
Orithyia ♀
Parsley ♀ ♂
Periboea ♀
Pimpernel ♀ ♂
Pine ♂ ♀
Rudra ♂ ♀
Sage ♂ ♀
Samaniya ♀
Sirocco ♂ ♀
Solanus ♂
Spirit ♀ ♂
Sylph ♀
Tuuli ♀
Umoya ♀
Unole ♀
Vata ♂
Vayu ♂
Vona ♀
Whisper ♀ ♂
Wind, Wynde ♂ ♀
Windflower ♀
Zephyr ♂ ♀
Zephyria ♀
Zephyrina, Zepherine ♀

Fire

Acestes ♂
Acorn ♂ ♀
Aedd ♂
Aeddán ♂
Agatha ♀
Agnes ♀
Agni ♂
Aidan ♂
Aine ♀
Alaula ♀
Alder ♂ ♀
Altan ♂
Angelica ♀
Aodh ♂
Aodhán ♂
Aodhnait ♀
Aoibheall ♀
Arani ♂ ♀
Aries ♂ ♀
Artemisia ♀
Astrantia ♀
Axe ♂ ♀
Balsam ♂ ♀
Barbara ♀
Basil ♂ ♀
Bay ♀ ♂
Beltane ♀ ♂
Betony ♀ ♂
Bharat ♂
Blaze ♂ ♀
Brand ♂
Brenda ♀
Bridget ♀
Bryony ♀
Burak ♂
Camellia ♀
Candle ♀ ♂
Candlemas ♂ ♀
Candor ♂ ♀
Carnation ♂ ♀
Cayenne ♀
Cedar ♂ ♀
Celandine ♀
Centaury ♀ ♂
Chi ♀ ♂
Chrysanthemum ♀
Cinder ♀ ♂
Cinnamon ♂ ♀

Clove ♀ ♂
Coal ♂
Copper ♂ ♀
Coriander ♂ ♀
Cumin ♂ ♀
Daigh ♂
Dechtire ♀
Dew ♀ ♂
Diego ♂
Dill ♀ ♂
Dracaena ♀
Draco ♂
Dragon ♂ ♀
Eimyrja ♀
Eisa ♀
Elmo ♂
Elysia ♀
Ember ♀ ♂
Etain ♀
Fawkes ♂
Feng ♂
Fennel ♂ ♀
Fern ♀
Fflamddwyn ♂
Fiammetta ♀
Fiery ♂ ♀
Fintan ♂
Fire ♂ ♀
Firefly ♂ ♀
Firestone ♂
Flame ♀ ♂
Flare ♂ ♀
Flax ♂ ♀
Flint ♂
Frankincense ♀ ♂
Fuji ♀
Fulgora ♀
Gabija ♀
Galingale ♀ ♂
Gentian ♀ ♂
Gilfaethwy ♂
Ginger ♂ ♀
Glöd ♀
Guy ♂
Gwern ♂ ♀
Hana ♀
Hazel ♀ ♂
Hephaestus ♂
Holly ♀

Hyssop ♂ ♀
Ignatius ♂
Incense ♀ ♂
Iskra ♀
Jagubis ♂
Janis ♀ ♂
Kay, Kaye ♂ ♀
Kenneth ♂
Kingfisher ♂ ♀
Lammas ♂ ♀
Larch ♀
Lasair ♀
Lasairfhiona ♀
Laserian ♂
Latiaran ♀
Lavender ♀ ♂
Leo ♂
Light ♂ ♀
Logi ♂
Lyulf ♂
Mahogany ♀ ♂
Maloney ♂ ♀
Mandrake ♂ ♀
Meleager ♂
Mheni ♂ ♀
Molinya ♀
Mulberry ♀
Mullein ♂ ♀
Nina ♀
Nonus ♂
Nusku ♂
Nutmeg ♀
Olive ♀
Olivia ♀
Oliver ♂
Oriel ♀ ♂
Paprika ♀
Peony ♀
Pepper ♀ ♂
Phlox ♀ ♂
Phoenix ♂ ♀
Pine ♂ ♀
Prometheus ♂
Pyramus ♂
Pyronia ♀
Pyrrha ♀
Pyrrhus ♂
Raiden ♂
Red ♂ ♀

Rembrandt ♂
Rosebay ♀
Rosemary ♀
Rue ♀ ♂
Sagittarius ♂ ♀
St. John ♂
Sesame ♀ ♂
Sholeh ♀
Siderion ♂
Solas ♂
South ♂ ♀
Spark ♂ ♀
Sparkle ♀
Su ♀
Tan ♀ ♂
Tanwen ♀
Thistle ♀ ♂
Thorbrand ♂
Titus ♂
Tletl ♂
Topaz ♀
Tyson ♂
Ubani ♂ ♀
Ugné ♀
Vesta ♀
Vesta ♀
Vulcan ♂
Walburga ♀
Wisp ♀ ♂
Woodruff ♂ ♀
Xiuhcoatl ♂ ♀
Yu ♀
Zjarr, Zjarre ♂ ♀

Water

Aban ♂ ♀
Acis ♂
Aconite ♂ ♀
Actaea ♀
Adrian ♂
Adriana ♀
Adrienne ♀
Aegeus ♂
Aegir ♂
Alchemilla ♀
Alder ♂ ♀
Aligena ♀
Aloe ♀ ♂
Alphard ♂ ♀

Alpheus ♂
Ama ♀
Amanzi ♀ ♂
Amaranthus ♂
Amazolo ♂ ♀
Amber ♀
Amphitrite ♀
Anaitis ♀
Anemone ♀
Annan ♂ ♀
Aphrodite ♀
Apsara ♀
Aqua ♀ ♂
Aquamarine ♀
Aquaria ♀
Aquarius ♂ ♀
Arethusa ♀
Ariel ♂ ♀
Arion ♂
Astracannet ♀ ♂
Atlantic ♀ ♂
Aysel ♀
Aysu ♀
Balsam ♂ ♀
Baltic ♂ ♀
Baptist ♂
Beck ♂ ♀
Berehynia ♀
Blue ♀ ♂
Brook ♀ ♂
Brynmor ♂
Caliadne ♀
Callianassa ♀
Callirhoe ♀
Calluna ♀
Calypso ♀
Camellia ♀
Candy ♀
Capricorn ♀ ♂
Caspian ♂
Chamomile ♀ ♂
Cherry ♀
Clymene ♀
Columbine ♀
Comfrey ♂ ♀
Copper ♂ ♀
Coral ♀
Crocus ♀ ♂
Cyclamen ♀

Cymodoce ♀
Cymothoe ♀
Cynfor ♂
Cypria ♀
Cyprian ♂
Damkina ♀
Davy ♂
Delphina ♀
Deniz ♂ ♀
Derya ♀ ♂
Dew ♀ ♂
Dexamene ♀
Diodora ♀
Dolphin ♀ ♂
Doris ♀
Douglas ♂ ♀
Dubh ♂ ♀
Dulse ♀
Dyfrgi ♂
Dyfrig ♂
Dylan ♂
Erica ♀
Eunice ♀ ♂
Fall ♂ ♀
Fand ♀
Fisher ♂
Foxglove ♀ ♂
Furrina ♀
Galatea ♀
Galene ♀
Gavia ♀
Glauce ♀
Gwenllian ♀
Hadrian ♂
Havelock ♂
Haven ♀ ♂
Heather ♀
Hyacinth ♀ ♂
Ianassa ♀
Ianthé ♀
Icarus ♂
Indus ♂
Ino ♀
Io ♀
Ione ♀
Isca ♀
Iseul ♀
Ivy ♀
Jala ♀

Jandira ♀
Jata ♀
Jenny ♀
Jharana ♀
Jinhai ♂
Jordan ♂ ♀
Jura ♀ ♂
Kai ♂
Kaimana ♂
Kainalu ♂
Kane ♂
Kelpie ♀ ♂
Kelvin ♂
Keynfor ♂ ♀
Kittiwake ♀ ♂
Lake ♂ ♀
Lamorna ♀ ♂
Lan ♀ ♂
Laomedia ♀
Larkspur ♀ ♂
Lautan ♂ ♀
Lavender ♀ ♂
Lavinia ♀
Lawtan ♂
Lear ♂
Lester ♂
Leucothea ♀
Leviathan ♂
Liban ♂ ♀
Lir ♂
Llŷr ♂
Lotus ♀ ♂
Mallow ♀ ♂
Malva ♀
Manannán ♂
Marin ♂
Marina ♀
Maris ♂ ♀
Marius ♂
Marvin ♂
Mary ♀
Meilyr ♂
Meirion ♂
Melicertes ♂
Melita ♀
Melusina, Mélusine
♀
Mervyn ♂ ♀
Meurig ♂

Minnehaha ♀
Miri ♀ ♂
Mist ♂ ♀
Morfran ♂
Morfydd ♂
Morgan ♂ ♀
Moriarty ♂
Morien ♂
Morlais ♂
Morvah ♀
Morwenna ♀
Morydd ♂
Muirenn ♀
Muirgen ♀
Muriel ♀
Murray ♂
Murtagh ♂
Myrddin ♂
Myrrh ♂ ♀
Myrtle ♀
Naïs ♀
Natsuko ♀
Naunet ♀
Nehalennia ♀
Neptune ♂
Neptune ♂
Nereis ♀
Nereus ♂
Nesaea ♀
Nightshade ♂ ♀
Nilofer ♀
Nilus ♂
Nina ♀
Njord ♂
Nodens ♂
Oar ♂ ♀
Ocean ♂ ♀
Oceana ♀
Oneega ♀
Osprey ♂ ♀
Otter ♂ ♀
Pacific ♂ ♀
Palaemon ♂
Parsley ♀ ♂
Pasithea ♀
Peach ♀ ♂
Pear ♀ ♂
Pearl ♀
Peg ♀

Pelagia ♀
Pélagie ♀
Pelagius ♂
Periboea ♀
Periwinkle ♀ ♂
Persimmon ♂ ♀
Petrel ♀ ♂
Phaëdra ♀
Pherousa ♀
Philyra ♀
Phorcys ♂
Phytalmius ♂
Pisces ♂ ♀
Plum ♀ ♂
Pontia ♀
Pontius ♂
Pontus ♂
Poppy ♀
Poseidon ♂
Proteus ♂
Psamathe ♀
Purslane ♂ ♀
Rain ♀ ♂
Rainbird ♂ ♀
Rainbow ♀ ♂
Rainer ♂
Ramnath ♂
Ria ♀
Ripple ♀ ♂
Rosa ♀
Rosabel ♀
Rosalba ♀
Rosalie ♀
Rosangela ♀
Rosanna ♀
Rose ♀
Rosemary ♀
Ryan ♂
Saligena ♀
Scry ♂ ♀
Sea ♂ ♀
Seabert ♂
Seaborn ♂
Seabright ♂
Seamay ♀
Seawald ♂
Shell ♀ ♂
Soul ♀ ♂
Strawberry ♀ ♂

Stream ♂ ♀
Su ♀
Syrinx ♀
Tallulah ♀
Tamarind ♀
Tamarisk ♀ ♂
Tanais ♀
Tansy ♀
Tarka ♀ ♂
Teal ♂ ♀
Tethys ♀
Thalassa ♀
Thalassia ♀
Thetis ♀
Thoe ♀
Thrift ♀ ♂
Thyme ♀ ♂
Tiamat ♀
Trevor ♂
Uma ♀
Undine ♀
Valerian ♂
Vanilla ♀
Varuna ♂
Vedra ♀
Veil ♀ ♂
Venus ♀
Violet ♀
Wachilda ♀
Wade ♂
Wainani ♀
Water ♂ ♀
West ♂ ♀
Winifred ♀
Winter, Wynter ♀
Wintergreen ♂ ♀
Xanthe ♀
Yarrow ♂ ♀
Zale ♀
Zane ♂

Spirit

Abathur ♂
Acacia ♀
Ælfen ♀
Aether ♂ ♀
Aetheria ♀
Air ♂ ♀
Akasha ♂ ♀

Alfdís ♀
Alkahest ♂ ♀
Ambar ♂ ♀
Amethyst ♀
Anima ♀
Anshar ♂
Anu ♀ ♂
Anunit ♀
Aolani ♀
Araceli ♀
Aramazd ♂
Ariel ♂ ♀
Bee ♀ ♂
Betony ♀ ♂
Bryndís ♀
Butterfly ♀
Caelia ♀
Calchas ♂
Can ♂
Celeste ♀
Celestina ♀
Celestine ♂ ♀
Celia ♀
Cloud ♀ ♂
Cyclamen ♀
Deo ♀ ♂
Deva ♀ ♂
Dove ♀ ♂
Dumuzi ♂
Dušan ♂
Enid ♀
Enlil ♂
Ethereal ♂ ♀
Fei ♀ ♂
Genie ♀
Göker ♂
Haneul ♀
Heaven ♀ ♂
Heavenly ♀
Heidrun ♀
Inanna ♀
Indigo ♀ ♂
Izulu ♂
Jupiter ♂
Kalakua ♀
Kamama ♀
Kara ♀
Kehaulani ♀
Keikilani ♀

Lani ♀
Leilani ♀
Lokelani ♀
Lotus ♀ ♂
Makani ♂
Meilani ♀
Nalani ♀ ♂
Nara ♂ ♀
Naunet ♀
Neferkare ♂
Nefyn ♀ ♂
Ninlil ♀
Noelani ♀
Nwyfre ♂
Okara ♀ ♂
Orchil ♀
Orion ♂
Palatine ♂ ♀
Phoenix ♂ ♀
Porphyra ♀
Porphyry ♂ ♀
Psyche ♀
Purple ♀ ♂
Pwyll ♂
Ravan ♀
Rei ♀ ♂
Reiki ♂ ♀
Roselani ♀
Samaniya ♀
Samten ♂
Sky ♀ ♂
Sora ♀
Soul ♀ ♂
Spirit ♀ ♂
Sprite ♀ ♂
Sylph ♀
Tiranna ♀
Tyrian ♂ ♀
Umoya ♀ ♂
Urania ♀ ♂
Vedra ♀
Vedran ♂
Violet ♀
Ziusudra ♂

Spring

Agrimony ♂ ♀
Air ♂ ♀
Alder ♂ ♀

Anthion ♂
April ♀
Aprilia ♀
Ash ♂ ♀
Ashley ♀ ♂
Ashton ♂ ♀
Askr ♂
Aviva ♀
Beltane ♀ ♂
Blodeuwedd ♀
Blossom ♀
Bluebell ♀
Bud ♂ ♀
Cherry ♀
Chloe ♀
Columbine ♀
Crescens ♂
Crocus ♀ ♂
Daffodil ♀
Delaney ♀ ♂
Dodola ♀
East ♂ ♀
Easter ♀ ♂
Easton ♂
Eilir ♀ ♂
Eithinen ♀
Elordi ♀ ♂
Equinox ♂ ♀
Erinna ♀
Fearn ♀ ♂
Flora ♀
Florence ♀ ♂
Florian ♂ ♀
Forsythia ♀
Gwalchmai ♂
Gwanwyn ♀ ♂
Gwern ♂ ♀
Gwylfai ♀ ♂
Hare ♀ ♂
Haru ♂
Hawthorn ♂ ♀
Haya ♀
Hilaria ♀
Hilary ♀ ♂
Huath ♀ ♂
Idhunna ♀
Irene ♀
Jarek ♂
Jarilo ♂

Kwanzaa ♀ ♂
Laburnum ♀
Laverna ♀
Laverne ♀ ♂
Lennor ♀ ♂
Lilac ♀
Lillai ♀
Magnolia ♀
Mai ♀
Maia ♀
March ♂ ♀
Marcia ♀
Marcus ♂
May ♀
Mayflower ♀
Mavambo ♂
Nash ♂
Nene ♂ ♀
Ninian ♂
Nion ♂ ♀
Oren ♂
Patricia ♀
Patrick ♂
Penda ♂ ♀
Pizho ♂
Persephone ♀
Pınar ♀
Primavera ♀
Primrose ♀
Proserpina ♀
Rabi ♂
Rafferty ♂ ♀
Saille ♀ ♂
Salix ♂ ♀
Spring ♀ ♂
Thorn ♂ ♀
Tulip ♀
Valmai ♀
Vár ♀
Vasant ♂
Ver ♂ ♀
Verna ♀
Vernal ♂ ♀
Vesna ♀
Vetch ♂
Willoughby ♂ ♀
Willow ♀
Yayoi ♀
Yuri ♂ ♀

Zel ♂
Zenry ♂ ♀
Zephyr ♂ ♀

Summer

Adair ♂ ♀
Adonis ♂
Aine ♀
Alban ♂
Altair ♂ ♀
Annis ♀
Apricot ♀
Ardent ♂ ♀
Ataya ♀ ♂
Auberon ♂
August ♂ ♀
Augusta ♀
Augustine ♂
Augustus ♂
Austin ♂
Ayla ♀
Bee ♀ ♂
Belisama ♀
Belladonna ♀
Berry ♀ ♂
Blythe ♂ ♀
Calluna ♀
Celandine ♀
Ceres ♀
Chesney ♂
Columbine ♀
Dara ♂ ♀
Daron ♂ ♀
Darran ♂
Dart ♂
Darwen ♂ ♀
Demeter ♀
Derfael ♂
Derry ♂ ♀
Derwen ♀ ♂
Derwent ♂
Dragonfly ♂ ♀
Druantia ♀
Drusilla ♀
Drusus ♂
Dryope ♀
Dryops ♂
Duir ♂ ♀
Elana ♀

Elderflower ♀
Elon ♂
Erica ♀
Fern ♀
Fire ♂ ♀
Firefly ♂ ♀
Foxglove ♀ ♂
Gawain ♂
Geshtinana ♀
Gossamer ♀
Green ♂ ♀
Gwylawst ♂ ♀
Gwynn ♂
Haf ♀
Hafgan ♂ ♀
Hafren ♀
Hafwen ♀
Heather ♀
Hefin ♂ ♀
Hermia ♀
Honeysuckle ♀
Irene ♀
Janis ♀ ♂
John ♂
July ♀
Jumal ♂
June ♀
Junia ♀
Juno ♀
Lado ♂ ♀
Lammas ♂ ♀
Larch ♀
Lavender ♀ ♂
Lennor ♀ ♂
Life ♀ ♂
Lillai ♀
Litha ♀
Lleu ♂
Lugh ♂
Lupin ♀ ♂
Lysander ♂
Midsummer ♂ ♀
Nara ♂ ♀
Natsuko ♀
Nergal ♂
Oak ♂ ♀
Ogden ♂
Perun ♂
Philemon ♂

Quince ♂ ♀
Raspberry ♀ ♂
Regulus ♂
Robur ♂
Rock ♂
Rudbeckia ♀
St. John ♂
Samaniya ♀
Sam ♂ ♀
Samhradán ♂
Samson ♂
Shade ♂ ♀
Simmer ♀ ♂
Solstice ♂ ♀
Somerilda ♀
Somerled ♂
Somerset ♂ ♀
Sora ♀
South ♂ ♀
Strawberry ♀ ♂
Summer ♀ ♂
Sunflower ♀
Swallow ♀ ♂
Tailte ♀
Tammuz ♂
Tan ♀ ♂
Tanner ♂
Tawny ♂ ♀
Thomas ♂
Titania ♀
Vulcan ♂
Wenhaf ♀
Xia ♀
Zenry ♂
Zhilan ♀

Autumn/Fall

Adam ♂
Aethnen ♀ ♂
Afallach ♂
Agaric ♂
Akiko ♀
Alma ♀
Amanita ♀
Apple ♀ ♂
Aspen ♂ ♀
Autumn ♀ ♂
Avalon ♂ ♀
Banadl ♂ ♀

Banadlwedd ♀
Belladonna ♀
Berry ♀ ♂
Bilberry ♀ ♂
Boann ♀
Bradán ♂
Braden ♂
Bramwell ♂
Brandon ♂
Bryony ♀
Caraway ♂ ♀
Coll ♂
Collen ♂ ♀
Corylus ♂ ♀
Crimson ♂ ♀
Crocus ♀ ♂
Eadha ♂ ♀
Elderberry ♀
Elfed ♂
Equinox ♂ ♀
Etiona ♀
Fall ♂ ♀
Feronia ♀
Fomalhaut ♂
Genista ♀
Gentian ♀ ♂
Gort ♂ ♀
Hazan ♀
Hazel ♀ ♂
Heather ♀
Hedera ♀
Hesper ♀ ♂
Hespera ♀
Hesperis ♀
Hunt ♂
Iorwg ♂ ♀
Ivy ♀
Jarilo ♂
Jumis ♂
Ladon ♂
Linus ♂
Mabon ♂
Maple ♀ ♂
Musk ♂ ♀
Nehalennia ♀
Onnen ♀
Pampinea ♀
Philomela ♀
Pip ♂ ♀

Pippin ♂ ♀
Plantagenet ♂
Purnima ♀
Quert ♂ ♀
Rina ♀
Russell ♂ ♀
Russet ♂ ♀
Scarlett ♀ ♂
September ♀ ♂
Sharada ♀
Sickle ♂ ♀
Thyrsus ♂
Vine ♂ ♀
Water ♂ ♀
West ♂ ♀
Weston ♂

Winter

Alban ♂
Alcyone ♀
Adonis ♂
Aneira ♀
Arawn ♂
Arthan ♂ ♀
Arthur ♂
Bai ♂
Bertilak ♂
Blizzard ♂ ♀
Bruma ♀
Brumalia ♀
Cailleach ♀
Carol ♀ ♂
Celyn ♂ ♀
Chimon ♂
Chione ♀
Christmas ♂ ♀
Cobweb ♀ ♂
Cú Chulainn ♂
Cullen ♂
Cyclamen ♀
Drizzle ♂ ♀
Earth ♂ ♀
Eartha ♀
Eira ♀
Eirawen ♀
Eirlys ♀
Elder ♂ ♀
Ermine ♀ ♂
Falda ♀

Fei ♀ ♂
Fomalhaut ♂
Frost ♂ ♀
Fulla ♀
Fuyuko ♀
Galanthis ♀
Gwyneira ♀
Gwythyr ♂
Halcyon ♀
Gronw ♂
Herne ♂
Holda ♀
Holly ♀
Hunt ♂
Ichamna ♀ ♂
Ifor ♂
Iobhar ♂
Iona ♀
Irene ♀
Ivar ♂
Ive ♀ ♂
Ivo ♂
Ivy ♀
Ixion ♂
Ixius ♂
Jack ♂
Jarri ♂
Jura ♀ ♂
Lucia ♀
Lucy ♀
Lumi ♀
Marzanna ♀
Midwinter ♂ ♀
Mistletoe ♀ ♂
Natalie ♀
Nevada ♀ ♂
Nieves ♀
Nivetta ♀
North ♂ ♀
November ♀ ♂
Pine ♂ ♀
Robin ♂ ♀
Ruis ♀ ♂
Samhain ♂ ♀
Saturn ♂ ♀
Sleet ♂ ♀
Snaedís ♀
Snežana ♀
Snow ♂ ♀

Snowdon ♂
Snowdrop ♀
Solstice ♂ ♀
Tuyét ♀
Tyne ♂ ♀
Ullr ♂
Yew ♂ ♀
York ♂ ♀
Yuki ♂ ♀
Ywen ♀ ♂
Water ♂ ♀
Winter ♀ ♂
Wintergreen ♂ ♀
Wolf ♂
Yalda ♀
Yule ♂ ♀
Zima ♂ ♀

Colors

Orange/

Brown/Pink/

Red

Adam ♂
Akane ♀
Alkanet ♂ ♀
Amaranth ♀ ♂
Amber ♀
Arun ♂
Auburn ♀ ♂
Aventurine ♀ ♂
Bay ♀ ♂
Beige ♀
Beryl ♀
Brown ♂
Brunella ♀
Brunette ♂
Bruno ♂
Burgundy ♀ ♂
Carmine ♀ ♂
Carnation ♂ ♀
Cerise ♀
Cherry ♀
Cinnabar ♂ ♀
Cinnamon ♂ ♀
Claret ♀
Clover ♀ ♂
Cocidius ♂
Cocoa ♀

Copper ♂ ♀
Coral ♀
Cramesy ♀ ♂
Cranberry ♀ ♂
Crimson ♂ ♀
Dindrane ♀
Donnan ♂
Donovan ♂
Dunawd ♂
Duncan ♂
Dunlaith ♀
Eachann ♂
Edom ♂
Electra ♀
Ember ♀
Erytheia ♀
Fei ♀ ♂
Ffion ♀
Flame ♀ ♂
Flann ♂
Fox ♂ ♀
Fuchsia ♀
Garnet ♂ ♀
Guldar ♀
Henna ♀
Koray ♂
Lala ♀
Li ♂ ♀
Lolli ♀
Mahogany ♀ ♂
Magenta ♀
Marijani ♀
Mei ♀
Meili ♀
Merah ♀ ♂
Misko ♂ ♀
Morena ♀
Mulberry ♀ ♂
Nala ♂ ♀
Orange ♀ ♂
Paprika ♀
Pink ♀ ♂
Piroska ♀
Poppy ♀
Pyrrhus ♂
Raspberry ♀ ♂
Rhydian ♂
Robin ♂ ♀
Rory ♂

Rose ♀
Rothay ♀ ♂
Rouge ♀
Rowan ♂ ♀
Roy ♂
Roz ♀
Ruadhnaid ♀
Rubeus ♂
Rubin ♂
Rubina ♀
Ruby ♀
Rudbeckia ♀
Ruddock ♂
Rufus ♂
Russell ♂
Russet ♂ ♀
Rusty ♂
Sanguine ♂ ♀
Scarlett ♀
Shell ♀
Shuri ♀
Siena ♀
Sorrel ♀ ♂
Strawberry ♀ ♂
Suri ♀ ♂
Tigerlily ♀
Titian ♂
Umber ♂ ♀
Vermilion ♂ ♀
Xia ♀
Zisha ♀

Colors

Yellow/Gold

Agrimony ♂ ♀
Altın ♂
Altinai ♀
Aranka ♀
Ariannell ♀
Arta ♀ ♂
Ash ♂ ♀
Auburn ♀ ♂
Aur ♀
Aurea ♀
Aurddolen ♀
Auretta ♀
Auriel ♂ ♀
Aurora ♀

Aventurine ♀ ♂
Beryl ♀
Blane ♂
Blondie ♀
Boglárka ♀
Boyd ♂
Buttercup ♀
Chablis ♀
Chamomile ♀ ♂
Chardonnay ♀
Chrysanthea ♀
Chrysanthemum ♀
Chrysogon ♀ ♂
Chrysalis ♀ ♂
Chrysolite ♀
Citrine ♀ ♂
Citron ♂ ♀
Cressida ♀
Crocea ♀
Crocus ♀ ♂
Daffodil ♀
Elanor ♀
Electron ♂
Eliphaz ♂
Eurfron ♀
Euroswydd ♂
Eurwen ♀
Flavia ♀
Flavian ♂
Flavius ♂
Flax ♂ ♀
Flaxen ♀
Forsythia ♀
Fulvia ♀
Genista ♀
Gentian ♀ ♂
Ginger ♀ ♂
Gold ♂ ♀
Golda ♀
Goldberry ♀
Golden ♀ ♂
Goldie ♀ ♂
Goldfinch ♀
Goldilocks ♀
Goldwin ♂
Honey ♀
Jin ♂
Jinhai ♂
Jonquil ♀

Kalena ♀
Kúl ♂ ♀
Laburnum ♀
Lemon ♀ ♂
Lena ♀
Linen ♀
Lourdes ♀
Lunula ♀
Marigold ♀
Melina ♀
Melyn ♀
Mina ♀
Mullein ♂ ♀
Muna ♀
Muriel ♀
Nisaba ♀
Ochre ♂ ♀
Palila ♀
Pitambar ♂
Primrose ♀
Ravenna ♀
Sanday ♀ ♂
Sandy ♀ ♂
Sovann ♀
Sunny ♀ ♂
Sunshine ♀
Tansy ♀
Tawny ♂ ♀
Topaz ♀
Urai ♀
Xanthe ♀
Xanthias ♂
Xanthippe ♀
Xanthus ♂
Zenry ♂ ♀
Zircon ♂ ♀
Zlatan ♂
Zoroaster ♂

Colors

Green/Blue/

Purple

Aconite ♂ ♀
Alkanet ♂ ♀
Amethyst ♀
Aoi ♀ ♂
Apple ♀
Aquamarine ♀

Ayame ♀
Azura ♀
Azure ♂ ♀
Azurite ♂ ♀
Bice ♀ ♂
Bilberry ♀ ♂
Blue ♀ ♂
Bluebell ♀
Caesia ♀
Calchas ♂
Cedar ♂ ♀
Celadon ♂
Chicory ♂ ♀
Chloris ♀
Chrysolite ♀
Conifer ♂ ♀
Copper ♂ ♀
Cornflower ♀
Cyan ♂ ♀
Cypress ♀ ♂
Douglas ♂ ♀
Emerald ♀
Faience ♀
Fei ♀ ♂
Finch ♂ ♀
Fir ♂ ♀
Forest ♂ ♀
Forgetmenot ♀
Gentian ♀ ♂
Glaisne ♂
Glauce ♀
Glesni ♀
Gormelia ♀
Gormlaith ♀
Green ♂ ♀
Greenfinch ♀ ♂
Harebell ♀
Hari ♂
Heather ♀
Holly ♀
Ianassa ♀
Ianthé ♀
Ibolya ♀
Indigo ♀ ♂
Io ♀
Iolanthe ♀
Iole ♀
Ione ♀
Ivy ♀

Jacaranda ♀
Jacinth ♀ ♂
Jade ♀
Jasper ♂
Lan ♀ ♂
Larkspur ♀ ♂
Lazuli ♀ ♂
Lavender ♀ ♂
Leaf ♀ ♂
Lilac ♀
Lime ♂ ♀
Ling ♀ ♂
Livia ♀
Livy ♂ ♀
Malachite ♂ ♀
Mistletoe ♀ ♂
Moschatel ♂ ♀
Moss ♂ ♀
Nila ♀
Nilam ♀
Nisaba ♀
Olive ♀
Olivia ♀
Olivine ♀
Orchil ♀
Papaya ♀
Periwinkle ♀ ♂
Phoenix ♂ ♀
Pine ♂ ♀
Plum ♀ ♂
Porphyra ♀
Porphyry ♂ ♀
Prunella ♀
Purple ♀ ♂
Sage ♂ ♀
Sap ♂ ♀
Sapphire ♀
Sea ♂ ♀
Serpentine ♀ ♂
Sky ♀ ♂
Sora ♀
Teal ♂ ♀
Topaz ♀
Tourmaline ♀ ♂
Turquoise ♀ ♂
Tyrian ♂ ♀
Ume ♀
Ura ♀
Vedra ♀

Verdant ♂ ♀
Verdigris ♀ ♂
Veronica ♀
Vert ♂ ♀
Viola ♀
Violet ♀
Viorel ♂
Virgil ♂
Virginia ♀
Viridian ♂ ♀
Willow ♀
Wintergreen ♂ ♀
Yew ♂ ♀
Zircon ♂ ♀

Colors

White/Silver

Aelwen ♀
Aeronwen ♀
Ailbhe ♂ ♀
Ákos ♂
Alabaster ♂ ♀
Alba ♂ ♀
Alban ♂
Albin ♂
Albina ♀
Albion ♂ ♀
Albiorix ♂
Albius ♂
Albuna ♀
Albus ♂
Alpin ♂
Alva ♂ ♀
Amranwen ♀
Aneirawen ♀
Anwen ♀
Argent ♂ ♀
Argentea ♀
Argentina ♀
Ariana ♀
Ariannell ♀
Arianrhod ♀
Arianwen ♀
Arjuna ♂
Arwen ♀
Asterion ♂
Astrophora ♀
Bai ♂

Béibhinn ♀
Béla ♂
Berwyn ♂
Beyza ♀
Birch ♀ ♂
Blanche ♀
Blanchefleur ♀
Blodwen ♀
Boann ♀
Brangaine ♀
Brangwyn ♂
Branwen ♀
Bronwen ♀
Brythonwen ♀
Caerwyn ♂
Candida ♀
Candide ♂
Candor ♂ ♀
Caoilfhionn ♀
Carwyn ♂
Ceinwen ♀
Ceridwen ♀
Chantilly ♀
Cledwyn ♂
Delwyn ♂
Dilwyn ♂
Doireann ♀
Dwynwen ♀
Ebrillwen ♀
Edelweiss ♀
Edwen ♀
Eilwen ♀
Eirawen ♀
Eirianwen ♀
Eirlys ♀
Elanor ♀
Electron ♂
Ermine ♀ ♂
Eurwen ♀
Fenella ♀
Ffionwen ♀
Fidda ♀
Finbar ♂
Finegas ♂
Fingal ♂
Fingar ♂
Fingon ♂
Finley ♂
Finn ♂

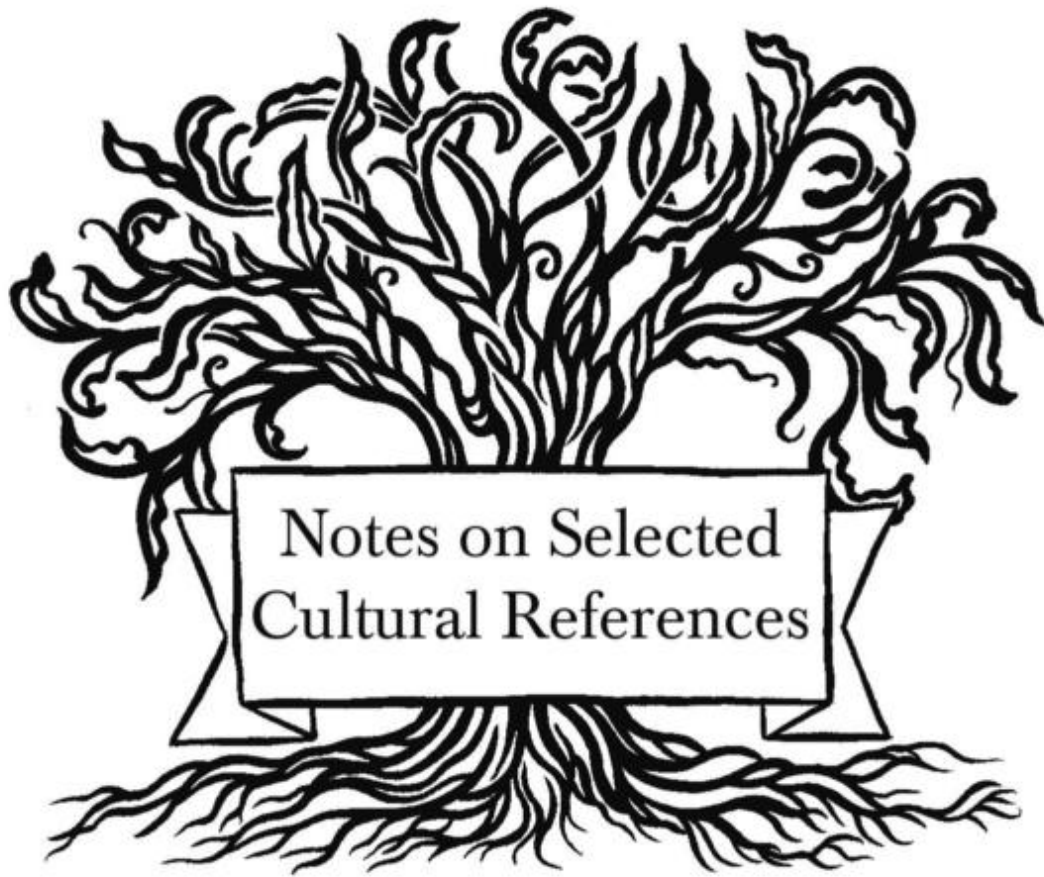
Finnegan ♂
Finnian ♂
Fintan ♂
Fiona ♀
Fionnabhair ♀
Fionnait ♀
Fionnuala ♀
Fionnúir ♀
Frost ♂ ♀
Gaël ♂
Galatea ♀
Gawain ♂
Geiléis ♀
Gerwyn ♂
Guinevere ♀
Gwen ♀
Gwenda ♀
Gwenddydd ♀
Gwendoline ♀
Gwenfor ♀
Gwenfyl ♀
Gwenifer ♀
Gwenllian ♀
Gwennan ♀
Gwenno ♀
Gwenog ♀
Gwenola ♀
Gwenonwy ♀
Gwion ♂
Gwyn ♂
Gwynder ♂
Gwyndra ♀
Gwyneira ♀
Gwyneth ♀
Gwynfai ♂ ♀
Gwynfor ♂
Gwynora ♀
Hafwen ♀
Heulwen ♀
Honesty ♀
Ino ♀
Irvine ♂
Ivory ♀
Kent ♂
Kittiwake ♀ ♂
Laban ♂
Lachtna ♂
Leucothea ♀
Leucothoe ♀

Levanah ♀
Liban ♂ ♀
Lily ♀
Lunaria ♀
Lynwen ♀
Mercury ♂ ♀
Muirenn ♀
Nanwen ♀
Nolwenn ♀
Ogwen ♀
Olwen ♀
Pearl ♀
Pewter ♂ ♀
Potentilla ♀
Prydwen ♀
Rajana ♀
Rhonwen ♀
Rosalba ♀
Seren ♀
Shamrock ♂ ♀
Siderea ♀
Silene ♀
Silver ♂ ♀
Skaistè ♀
Snaedis ♀
Snow ♂ ♀
Snowdrop ♀
Star ♀ ♂
Starletta ♀
Starlight ♀
Starry ♀ ♂
Steel ♂
Stella ♀
Sterling ♂
Sulwyn ♂
Tangwen ♀
Tanwen ♀
Tegwen ♀
Tin ♂ ♀
Titania ♀
Unega ♀
Vienna ♀
Vindonnus ♂
Whitney ♀ ♂
Windrush ♂
Winifred ♀
Wynn ♂

Colors

Black

Adara ♀
Alchemy ♂ ♀
Amsel ♀ ♂
Andraste ♀
Antimony ♀ ♂
Basalt ♂
Berry ♀ ♂
Bice ♀ ♂
Black ♂
Blackbird ♀ ♂
Blake ♂ ♀
Brandubh ♂
Calder ♂ ♀
Cardew ♂
Celaeno ♀
Charna ♀
Chert ♂
Chogan ♂
Ciar ♀
Ciara ♀
Ciarán ♂
Coal ♂
Cole ♂
Coleridge ♂
Colley ♂
Dark ♂ ♀
Darklis ♀
Devlin ♂
Dew ♀ ♂
Donovan ♂
Dougal ♂
Douglas ♂ ♀
Dryope ♀
Duane ♂
Dubh ♂ ♀
Dyfrig ♂
Egeria ♀
Elderberry ♀
Erebus ♂
Feardorcha ♂
Galena ♀
Gethin ♂
Gray ♂ ♀
Houri ♀
Iarlaith ♂
Jet ♂ ♀
Kaila ♀



The role played by cultural influences on people's choice of names cannot be underestimated. Most of the names in the top hundred at any one time can be traced to a celebrity or a character in a film, television program, or book, appearing in the previous thirty years or so. This is true not just of those names often dismissed as "voguish" but also so-called traditional and conservative names. Lily, for instance, had become all-but obsolete before the American sitcom *The Munsters* aired in 1966, and J.K. Rowling's use of the name for the mother of Harry Potter saw the name rocket in the late 1990s.

The phenomenon is not new. Even in the Middle Ages, when the Church strongly encouraged the use of the names of saints only, names from popular literature became genuine given names. Influences come from all sources-the sublime to the ridiculous-an astonishing mish-mash.

Generally, cultural references made within the entries in this book include a brief note on date and source. Some, however, require a little more information, or are more relevant to this work than oth

ers, and thus, in order to avoid excessive repetition, have been placed here.

The Aeneid (29-19 BCE). The masterpiece of the Roman poet Virgil, chronicling the journey of the hero Aeneas in his quest to found a new Trojan homeland. It was written in honor of and to glorify-Rome's first emperor, Augustus, who claimed descent from Aeneas through the gens Julia.

Canterbury Tales (late 14th C), by Geoffrey Chaucer. Influenced by Boccaccio's Decameron, Chaucer's collection of "tales" are told by a group of pilgrims to each other, engaging in a story-telling competition to pass the time as they make a pilgrimage to Canterbury.

Chronicles of Narnia (1950-56), by C.S. Lewis. A fantasy written for children, the Chronicles are noted for the oblique Christian theme running throughout-though some fundamentalist Christians reject the books because of the magic and numerous Pagan motifs. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (1950) was the first published, and The Last Battle (1956), the last. The others in the series are Prince Caspian (1951), The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (1952), The Silver Chair (1953), The Horse

and *His Boy* (1954), and *The Magician's Nephew* (1955)-chronologically, the first in the series.

The Decameron (1353) by Boccaccio. A collection of stories told by seven young women and three young men to each other against the backdrop of the Black Death, which has caused them to flee from their home town of Florence into the country. With nothing else to do, they pass the time telling stories to each other.

The Domesday Book (1086). A survey commissioned by William the Conqueror of the whole of England, essentially to find out who owned what, and what it was worth; an immensely valuable historical source for many things, including names.

Don Quixote (1605, 1615). Miguel de Cervantes hugely influential novel, published in two volumes. It was first translated into English in the early seventeenth century.

The Faerie Queene (1590, 1596). The epic masterpiece of Elizabethan poet Edmund Spenser, published in two parts, a homage to Queen Elizabeth I and the Tudor dynasty.

Gone with the Wind (1937), by Margaret Mitchell. The book was successful enough on its own, but the 1939 film starring Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Olivia de Havilland, and Leslie Howard made it one of the most iconic works of the twentieth century.

Harry Potter (1997-2007), by J.K. Rowling. The seven novels about the boy wizard and the magical world of Witches and Witchcraft which

he inhabits have all since been turned into films. Starting with Harry Potter and the Philosopher's/Sorcerer's Stone (1997/98), the ensuing works are Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (1998/99), Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (1999), Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2000), Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2003), Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2005), and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (2007).

Idylls of the King (1856-85), by Alfred Lord Tennyson. A series of epic narrative poems retelling the legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. They were published over the course of almost thirty years, from 1856 until 1885, and some had been written in the 1830s. They were very popular and responsible for promoting many "Arthurian" names (some of which had been reshaped by Tennyson to fit his meter better) in the late nineteenth century.

Le Morte d'Arthur (1485). Sir Thomas Malory's masterpiece, and the principal source of later retellings of the Arthurian legends. His work was re-embraced in the nineteenth century, alongside "modern" interpretations then popular, such as Tennyson's Idylls.

Lord of the Rings (1954-55). The epic fantasy by J.R.R. Tolkien, a professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford, who spent years developing the language, history, and mythology of Middle Earth. Tolkien drew a great deal on his knowledge of old languages, and "translated" many of the names of his characters from their "real" languages into Old English and Old Norse. In addition to the Lord of the Rings, there are also The Hobbit (1937) and The Silmarillion (1977). The three live-action film versions of 2001-3 made Lord of the Rings more famous than ever.

The Mabinogion. The name given to a collection of Welsh myths preserved in medieval manuscripts and translated by the English-born Welsh scholar Lady Charlotte Guest in the mid-nineteenth century. Divided into "Four Branches" it contains some of the most significant of the Welsh myths, including those surrounding Pwyll and Rhiannon, Bran and Branwen, and Lleu Llaw Gyffes.

Orlando. Two extremely important and influential Renaissance works of literature go by the name of Orlando-i.e. Roland, one of the Paladins of Charlemagne. The first is Matteo Maria Boiardo's Orlando Innamorato-"Orlando in love" (1495). The second is its "sequel," Ludovico Ariosto's Orlando Furioso-"Mad Orlando" (1532).

Ossianic Poems. James Macpherson claimed the Ossianic poems were genuine early medieval poetry, ascribed to Ossian-supposedly Oisín, son of Finn McCool. For a time, everyone was completely taken in by the deception, and they were enormously influential across Europe. However, even when first published, there were those who doubted the authenticity. In reality, Macpherson seems to have based his works on some original manuscripts, as well as drawing on oral traditions, but it is largely accepted that the work is mostly his own. The first poems were published in 1760, with *The Works of Ossian* published in 1765.

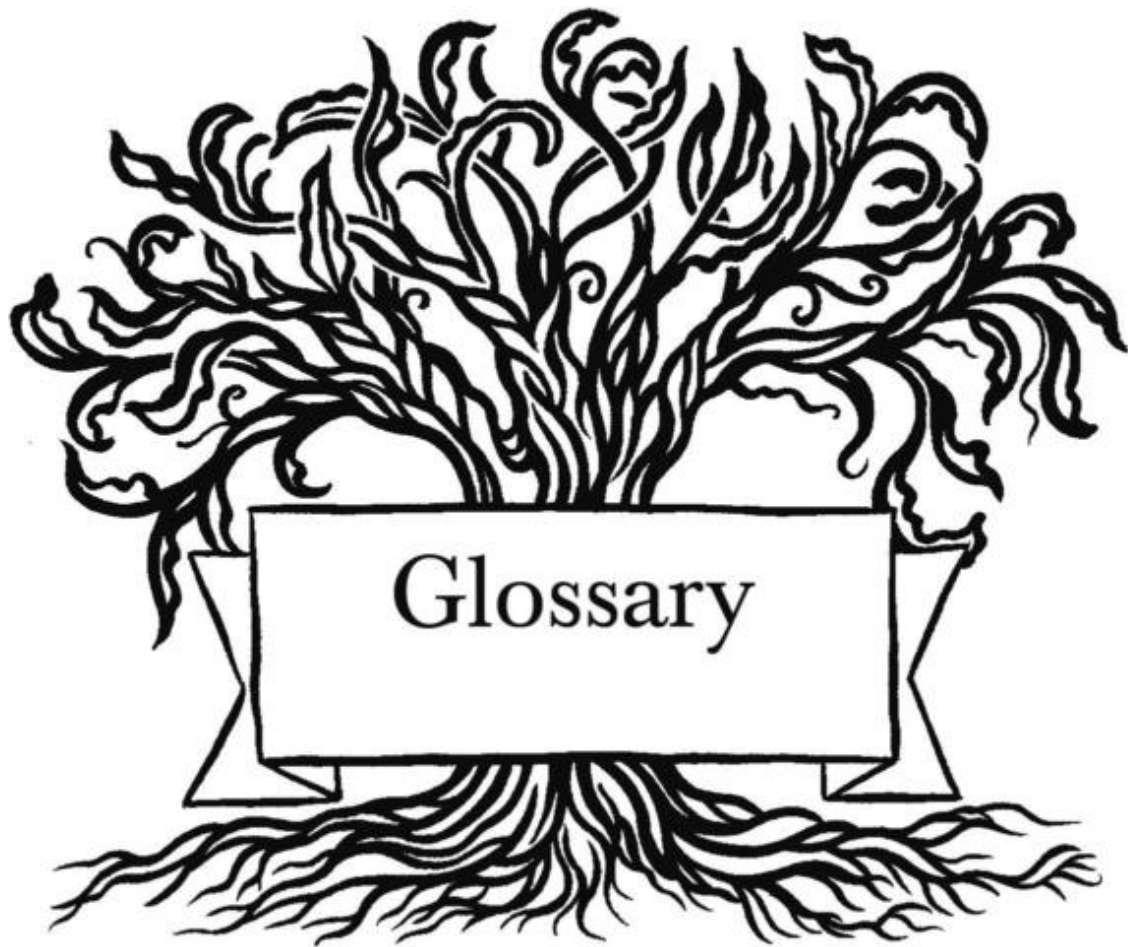
Shakespeare. The plays of William Shakespeare have been a major source of inspiration for names for the last two hundred years and more. The plays fall into three categories-comedies, tragedies, and histories. Comedies: *As You Like It* (1599), *The Comedy of Errors* (1594), *Love's Labour's Lost* (c. 1595), *Merchant of Venice* (c. 1596-98), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (1597), *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (c. 1595-96), *Much Ado About Nothing* (c.

1598-99), Pericles, Prince of Tyre (1606-08), The Taming of the Shrew (c. 1592), The Tempest (1611), Twelfth Night (c. 1601), Two Gentlemen of Verona (c. 1592-93), A Winter's Tale (c. 1610- 11). Histories: Henry IV, Part I (c. 1597), Henry IV, Part 2 (c. 1597), Henry V (1599) Tragedies: Antony and Cleopatra (1606-07), Coriolanus (c.1608), Cymbeline (c. 1609-10), Hamlet (c. 1599-1601), Julius Caesar (1599), King Lear (c. 1604-05), Macbeth (c. 1606), Othello (1602-04), Romeo and Juliet (c. 1595), Timon of Athens (c.1607), Titus Andronicus (c. 1590), Troilus and Cressida (c.1602).

Thousand and One Nights. A collection of medieval Arabic stories, similar in arrangement to The Decameron and Canterbury Tales, in that it contains many tales ... the difference being that in Thousand and One Nights, there are tales within tales within tales. The narrator is traditionally held to be Scheherazade, telling stories to the king-in order to save her life.

Welsh Triads-Y Trioedd Ynys Prydain. A collection of epigrammatic three-fold wise sayings, which date back to the days of the ancient Druids. Many are preserved in medieval Welsh manuscripts such as the fourteenth century Red Book of Hergest.

Wizard of Oz. L. Frank Baum's The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (1900), was the first in a series of books about the Land of Oz, upon which the American film The Wizard of Oz (1939) were based.



Abenaki: See Algonquian.

Abrahamic: A term derived from the name of the biblical patriarch Abraham, which is used to refer to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam together, emphasizing their common origin (and also for shorthand).

Achumawai: Language spoken by the Achumawai, a band of the Pit River Indians of northeastern California.

Adjective: A word used to describe something, e.g. happy, sad, bright.

Afrikaans: The language spoken by the Boers of South Africa; Afrikaans evolved from Dutch.

Ainu: A people and language of Japan. The language is generally believed to be unrelated to any other known language, and is now almost extinct.

Akan: See Twi.

Alabama: See Muskogean.

Algonquian: The name of a North American language family. Languages in the family include Abenaki, Algonquin, Arapahoan, Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Cree, Maliseet, Mesquakie-Sauk-also known as Fox

Mi'kmaq, Mohican, Ojibwe-Potawatomi, Powhatan and Shawnee.

Algonquin: See Algonquian.

Amharic: The language spoken in Ethiopia.

Akkadian: A Semitic language spoken in Mesopotamia in ancient times, closely related to Arabic and Hebrew. Babylonian and Assyrian were dialects.

Anglicize: The creation of an English form of a name, e.g. Lucy, from Lucia.

Anglo-Norman: A language spoken in Britain in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest. Essentially a dialect of Norman-French with Old English influence.

Anglo-Saxon: The generic term applied to the people who settled in the British Isles during the fifth century CE. As far as the language is

concerned, the term is generally used interchangeably with Old English.

Apocryphal: Relating to the books of the Bible which were expunged by Protestants in the sixteenth century and are regarded by them as non-canonical. Many remain in the Catholic version of the Bible.

Aramaic: A Semitic language spoken in Palestine during the Greek and Roman periods.

Ashanti: See Twi.

Assyrian: See Akkadian.

Austronesian: A large language family of southeast Asia and the Pacific, which includes Hawaiian, Maori, Javanese, Samoan, Malay, and Indonesian.

Avestan: An obsolete Eastern Iranian language found only in Zoroastrian scriptures. It is a precursor of Persian, and is sometimes called Old Persian.

Aymara: A language of South America, spoken by the Aymara people in Bolivia, Peru and Chile.

Babylonian: See Akkadian.

Bakairi: A native language and people of Brazil; the language belongs to the Carib family, which gave the Caribbean its name.

Balkan: Named after the Balkan Mountains, Balkan and Balkans are terms used as collective terms for the countries of Southeastern Europe.

Baltic: The name of the north European sea, which also gives its name to the "Baltic states"-i.e. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The Baltic language group also belongs to the larger Baltic-Slavic family, and includes Lithuanian and Latvian.

Bantu: A term used to denote a very large group of African languages spoken in central and southern Africa.

Basque: Unrelated to any other known language, Basque is believed to be a relic of a pre-Indo-European language spoken by some of the earliest settlers. The Basque region lies in the Atlantic region of Northern Spain and Southern France.

Berber: A people and language of North Africa.

Blackfoot: See Algonquian

Breton: The language and culture of the people of Brittany in France. It is Celtic, closely related to Welsh and Cornish.

Brythonic: The language and culture of the Celticspeaking people who lived in Britain at the time of the Roman invasion in the first century CE.

Byzantine: The term used to describe the Eastern Roman Empire after the fall of the Western Empire

in the fifth century. Its capital was Constantinople, whose old name was Byzantium. It survived until the fifteenth century when Constantinople was captured by the Turks and became Istanbul.

Carthaginian: See Phoenician.

Catalan: A Romance language spoken in Eastern Spain, the Balearics and Andorra. Most closely related to Occitan.

Celtiberian: A term used of the Celtic people and language of the peninsula now comprising Spain and Portugal.

Celtic: It is important to remember when considering the Celts that the Celts themselves did not consider themselves a unified people and had no word which corresponds to our term "Celt." Even the Greek and Roman use of Keltaí and Celtae from which our word "Celt" derives was more limited than the modern usage. It has two distinct uses today; to refer to the ancient Celtic peoples of Western and Central Europe, and to the "modern Celts" of the "Celtic fringe"-i.e. those countries and regions where Celtic languages are still spoken or remain influential: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Cornwall, and Brittany.

Cherokee: See Iroquoian.

Cheyenne: See Algonquian.

Chicksaw: See Muskogean.

Chinook: The principal language of the Chinookian family of languages, spoken in parts of Washington state and Oregon. Best known is Chinook jargon, a pidgin language used as a lingua franca across the Pacific Northwest.

Chiwere: See Siouan.

Choctaw: See Muskogean.

Classical: Relating to the cultures and languages of Ancient Greece and Rome.

Cognate: Equating to the same thing in a related language, and deriving ultimately from the same source.

Cognomen: The Roman equivalent of a surname.

Compound: Made up of two or more components or elements (with a lowercase "e"). For instance, the name Edward is composed of the Old English elements ead and weard.

Confederate: The Confederate States of America were the eleven southern states which declared their secession from the USA in 1861, leading to the American Civil War.

Cornish: The language of Cornwall, England, closely related to Welsh and Breton. It became extinct in the eighteenth century but efforts are being made in Cornwall to revive it and numbers of speakers increase every year.

Cree: See Algonquian.

Creek-Seminole: See Muskogean.

Crow: See Siouan.

Cumbric: A relic of Brythonic, spoken in Cumbria, England. Very little is known about it, and some think it should be considered a dialect of Welsh. It had become extinct by the end of the twelfth century.

Dakota: See Siouan.

Diacritic mark: A mark added to a letter in order to modify its pronunciation in some way, e.g.: café, Brontë. In English, such marks are found in foreign loan-words and names.

Diminutive: By and large, used to mean "short form" or "pet form," such as Tom or Tommy for "Thomas. Sometimes, however, a diminutive is formed by adding a suffix, which technically makes a name longer, such as Marion from Mary, Johnny from John. Some diminutives have been in use for centuries, others are modern.

Edda: A name given to two distinct books from Iceland. These are the Prose Edda—a collection of Norse stories, largely in prose (though it does contain some poetry), and the Poetic Edda—a collection of Old Norse poetry, much of it epic and narrative in nature. They are major sources for Norse mythology and the Norse language.

Epithet: An adjective which indicates some quality or attribute characteristic of the person or thing described. Very commonly found with Greek and Roman deities.

Eponymous: Used of anything or anyone that gives its name to something, for instance Don Quixote is the eponymous hero of the book Don Quixote.

Estonian: The language of Estonia, a small country which with Lithuania and Latvia forms the Baltic

states. It, however, belongs to the Finno-Ugric group of languages.

Ethnonym: The name of an ethnic group, such as Celts, Goths, Romans, etc.

Etruscan: The name of a people and language who inhabited what is now called Tuscany in Italy. There is considerable debate over who precisely they were; whether they settled in Etruria (the name of their land in ancient times) from somewhere else, or whether they were indigenous. There is strong evidence for early trade and interaction with both the Phoenicians and the Greeks, but they are not generally thought to be related to either. Attempts have been made to link the Etruscan language with both Indo-European and Finno-Ugric, but generally, it is considered a language isolate.

Euhemerism: The interpretation of myths-particularly regarding Gods and Goddesses-as originating in real history. The term derives from Euhemerus, a fourth-century scholar, who first proposed that the Greek Deities had once been real men and women.

Etymology: The derivation and history of words and names.

Fante: See Twi.

Finno-Ugric: The name of a distinct language group, the most significant members of which are Finnish and Hungarian. Estonian also belongs to the group.

Gaelic: The Celtic language of Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. Generally, the word Gaelic is used specifically of the language spoken in Scotland, but for the sake of clarity, the terms Irish Gaelic, Scots Gaelic, and Manx Gaelic are used in this book.

Galician: A Romance language spoken in Galicia, Spain. It is more closely related to Portuguese than Spanish.

Gamilaraay: An Aboriginal people and language of New South Wales, Australia.

Gaulish: The language and culture of the Celtic people inhabiting Gaul (France) in the Roman and preRoman period.

Genius loci: Latin: "spirit of a place." The plural is genii loci.

Gens: A Latin word meaning something akin to "clan" or "extended family," to which everyone who bore a certain nomen belonged, e.g. the gens Julia Julian family; i.e. everyone who had the nomen Julius.

Germanic: Relating not just to the German languages, but those which belong to the Germanic language family. These include Danish, Dutch, English, German, and the Scandinavian languages.

Goidelic: The language and culture of the Celtic-speaking people who lived in Ireland at the time Brythonic flourished in Britain.

Gothic: The language of the ancient tribe of the Goths. For all intents and purposes, it can be treated as synonymous with Teutonic.

Guarani: See Tupi.

Hagiography: The writing of the lives of saints, largely done by monks in the Middle Ages, frequently with much artistic license. Hence hagiographers-monks who write hagiographies.

Hausa: Hausa is a language which belongs to the Chadic language group-itself part of the AfroAsiatic family. It is spoken principally in Niger and

northern Nigeria, but is also used as a common language across West Africa.

Hawaiian: See Austronesian.

Hellenize: The creation of a Greek form of a name, e.g. Xerxes from Xsayarsa.

Homeric: From Homer's epics the Odyssey or Iliad, which were composed in about the eighth century BCE.

Hopi: The name of a language and tribe of North America. The Hopi language belongs to the UtoAztecan family, and is thus related to Nahuatl.

Hungarian: Hungarian is classed as a Finno-Ugric language, related to Finnish and Estonian. It has, however, been significantly influenced by the Turkic and Slavic languages. The Hungarian word for their language and people is Magyar.

Hypocoristic: A short or pet form of a name, such as Tom for "Thomas.

Igbo: A Niger-Congo language spoken principally in Nigeria.

Illyrian: A term used to denote a group of related IndoEuropean languages once spoken in the area roughly covering the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Indian: Used in this book specifically of the people and culture of India in Asia, not American Indians, who are referred to in this book as Native American.

Indo-European: A family of several hundred related languages from Europe to the Indian subcontinent which all have a common origin-usually called Proto-Indo-European.

Indonesian: See Austronesian and Malay.

Irish: Generally used in this book to mean simply "from Ireland." English is the first language of most people in Ireland today, and there are many names which are distinctly Irish but which are Anglicized forms of true Irish names. When clarity is required, therefore, the language is referred to as Irish Gaelic. Old Irish is the form of the language recorded in texts dating from the seventh to tenth centuries.

Iroquoian: A family of Native North American families, which includes Cherokee, Mohawk, Onondaga, and the extinct Susquehannock.

Italic: The Indo-European languages of ancient Italy; its most famous and best known member being Latin, but also including Oscan, Sabine, and Umbrian.

Javanese: Austronesian language spoken on the Indonesian island of Java, and closely related to Malay/ Indonesian.

Judeo-Christian: Used of anything which applies to both Judaism and Christianity.

Kanji: The Chinese characters used in the Japanese logographic writing system.

Kazakh: Turkic language and people of Kazakhstan in Central Asia.

Khmer: Language and people of Cambodia.

K'iche': Mayan language, also called Quiche and Quichean.

Klallam: The name of a Native American tribe of the Pacific Northwest and their language.

Kongo: Also known as Kikongo, this is a Bantu language spoken by people living in the tropical rain forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, and Angola.

Kyrgyz: Turkic language and people of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia.

Lakota: See Siouan.

Latinize: The creation of a Latin form of a name, e.g. Everilda from the English Averil.

Latvian: A Baltic language, closely related to its neighbor Lithuanian.

Lithuanian: The people and language of Lithuania, which was only Christianized in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It is a Baltic language, and is often said to be the closest modern language to Proto-Indo-European.

Lozi: A Bantu language, spoken principally in Zambia.

Luwian: An Indo-European language spoken by the people who inhabited the region around Troy in Mycenaean times.

Maasai: A language spoken in Kenya and Tanzania.

Magyar: See Hungarian.

Malay: An Austronesian language spoken in Malaysia and Indonesia; Indonesian itself is a dialect of Malay, and the two are mutually intelligible.

Malayalam: A language of southern India, in particular, Kerala.

Mandaean: Relating to Mandaism, an obscure and intensely private religion in the Gnostic tradition formerly found mostly in Iraq. Most Mandaeans, however, now live in Syria and Jordan.

Manx: The people (and language) of the Isle of Man.

Maori: See Austronesian.

Mapuche: A Native American people and language family of Chile.

Mende: A Niger-Congo language spoken largely in Sierra Leone and Liberia in West Africa.

Meroitic: An ancient language spoken in the Kingdom of Kush, which lay in what is now Sudan. Its capital was Meroe, from which the language derives its name. It is uncertain to what language group Meroitic belonged; most likely, it was Nilo-Saharan like its neighbor, Nubian.

Mesoamerican: Relating to Central America and usually encompassing Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Mesquakie-Sauk: See Algonquian.

Metathesis: A linguistic term referring to the transposition of letters or sounds in a word. Not an uncommon process in the development and evolution of words and names in many languages.

Metonym: Using one word to take the place of another word or phrase. It was common in the surname period, for instance, for an object central to someone's occupation to be used in this way. John "the Candle" for instance, was a candle-seller or candlemaker, while Richard "the Wax" was a seller of wax. Metonyms are still used in Wales, "Jones the Steam," for instance, was a steam-engine driver on the British children's television series *Ivor the Engine* (1959, 1975-77).

Metonymic(ally): See Metonym.

Middle English: The name given to the English language as spoken in the Middle Ages-i.e., between the eleventh and fifteenth centuries. It is the English of both Thomas Malory and Geoffrey Chaucer.

Mi'kmaq: See Algonquian.

Miwok: The name of a Native American linguistic group of North California.

Mohawk: See Iroquoian.

Mohican: See Algonquian.

Mongolian: Language and people of the central Asian country.

Muskogean: A language group of North America. Muskogean languages include Alabama, Chicksaw, Choctaw, and Creek-Seminole (often called

simply Creek or Muscogee).

Nahuatl: An American language spoken in Mexico. This was the language of the Aztecs, and belongs to the Uto-Aztecan family, like Hopi.

Narragansett: An extinct Algonquian language. All that survives is a lexicon of Narragansett compiled by Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island, in 1643.

Ndebele: Ndebele is a Bantu language, closely related to Xhosa and Zulu, and is spoken in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Nereid: The sea-nymph daughters of Nereus.

Nilo-Saharan: A family of African languages, including Nubian.

Nomen: Latin for "name" it refers specifically to the name of a man or woman's gens-their family or "clan" name.

Nomenclature: Names and naming systems.

Nordic: See Norse.

Norman: Meaning "north man," this was the name given by the French to the Viking invaders who settled in what became Normandy in the tenth century.

Norman Conquest: The conquest of England following the victory of William, Duke of Normandy at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Although the number of Normans who settled in England following the battle is

thought to be relatively small, the impact of this invasion was profound on English language and culture.

Norman-French: The version of French spoken in medieval times in Normandy. It was introduced to the British Isles by the Normans after the Norman Conquest of 1066 CE and subsequently mingled with Old English to give birth to the modern English language.

Norse: The language of the Vikings. The adjective derived from it is Nordic.

Nubian: Relating to the historic kingdom of Nubia, which was located in Northern Sudan and Southern Egypt. Their language belonged to the Nilo-Saharan family of languages.

Numidian: The language and people of the ancient Berber kingdom of Numidia, which lay in what is now Algeria and Tunisia.

Occitan: A Romance language spoken in the South of France and most closely related to Catalan. It flourished in the Middle Ages and much important medieval literature was written in Occitan. Provençal-spoken in Provence-is a dialect, although is sometimes used to refer to Occitan as a whole.

Oceanid: The sea-nymph daughters of Oceanus.

Ojibwe: See Algonquian.

Old English: The English language prior to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 CE. Often known as Anglo-Saxon.

Onondaga : See Iroquoian

Orphism: One of the Mystery cults of Ancient Greece, centered on the mythological figure of Orpheus.

Oscan: The name of a language which flourished in central Italy in the southern half of Italy during the first millennium BCE. It was the language of the Samnites, major rivals of the Romans in Italy during the Roman Republic.

Pai: A language belonging to the Hokan family of languages of North America.

Paipai: A Yuman language-perhaps belonging to the Hokan family. Spoken in Northern Mexico.

Pali: An Indo-Iranian literary language of the first millennium BCE, closely related to Sanskrit and Avestan, in which a number of important Buddhist texts were written.

Phonetic: Relating to the specific sounds of words the different vowels and consonants. To spell a word phonetically is to spell it how it sounds according to the usual rules and conventions of a language.

Persian: The old name for the people and language of what is now modern Iran. It remains the usual name used for the language.

Personification: The turning of an abstract quality into a human form, e.g. the Greek Goddess Nike, the personification of victory (nike in Greek means simply "victory").

Phoenician: The language and culture of Phoenicia, a land largely corresponding with modern Lebanon. The Phoenicians were a great sea-

faring folk who founded many colonies in ancient times, its most famous being that of Carthage in what is now modern Tunisia.

Phrygian: A language and people related to the Thracians. They originated from Thrace, but migrated to Asia Minor (Turkey) in ancient times.

Pleiades: "The Seven Sisters."

Potawatomi: See Algonquian.

Powhatan: See Algonquian.

Praenomen: The Latin for "first name"; used to refer to the handful of names used principally by Roman men. The plural is praenomina.

Prefix: An element placed at the beginning of a word to change its meaning in some way.

Proto-Indo-European: The reconstructed pre-historic language from which all Indo-European languages originated; these include the Celtic, Germanic, Slavic and Romanic languages, Greek, Albanian, Persian, and Sanskrit.

Provençal: See Occitan.

Pseudonym: A fictitious name used to conceal a person's real identity.

Psychopomp: A God or Goddess who leads the souls of the dead to the Otherworld

Quechua: A South American language spoken in the Andes. "Ibis was the language of the Inca.

Quenya: An Elvish language invented by the English academic and novelist J.R.R. Tolkien.

Reformation: A split from the Catholic Church to follow Protestant doctrine. It began in Continental Europe in the early sixteenth century with Martin Luther. The English Reformation-which took place during the early 1530s-should be understood when the term is used, unless specifically stated otherwise.

Renaissance: The Renaissance movement, which was essentially the rediscovery of Europe's classical heritage, had a profound influence on art, literature, science and philosophy. In Britain this was more or less concurrent with the Reformation, though in Italy it began at the end of the fourteenth century.

Render: The use of a name familiar in one language to "translate" an etymologically unrelated name from another. For instance, the Irish Gaelic Grainne is traditionally rendered into English with Grace, even though all the two names have in common is the fact they start with the same letter.

Romani: A language and people. Also called the Romany-though this tends to be used now just of the people-the Romani are a European ethnic group commonly referred to as Gypsies.

Sabine: The name of a people and their language of central Italy. What little survives of the language suggests that it belonged to the Italic family.

St. Ursula: And her 11,000 virgins, all said to have been beheaded by dastardly Pagan Huns in Cologne. They are essentially the female equivalent of the Theban Legion.

Sanskrit: A historic Indo-European language and the predecessor of modern Hindi. It is regarded as the classical language of India and most of the sacred texts of Hinduism are written in it.

Scandinavian: Principally, the languages (and culture) of the Scandinavian Peninsula and Denmark, i.e. Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish. Finnish and Icelandic are often understood to be under the umbrella too; although Finnish is unrelated linguistically to the others, Finland is closely linked historically, geographically and culturally to the rest of Scandinavia.

Scots Gaelic: See Gaelic.

Shawnee: See Algonquian.

Shona: A people and language of southern Africa, mostly of Zimbabwe. It is one of the Bantu languages.

Sindarin: An Elvish language invented by the English academic and novelist J.R.R. Tolkien.

Sinhalese: A people and language of Sri Lanka.

Siouan: A North American language family, which includes Chiwere, Crow, and the Dakotan languages, which include Sioux. Sioux is further divided into Lakota and Eastern and Central Sioux, sometimes called Eastern and Western Dakota.

Sioux: See Siouan.

Slavic: A linguistic branch of Indo-European, found in Central and Eastern Europe. It includes Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Macedonian, Polish,

Russian, Serbian, Slovene, and Ukrainian. Sometimes called Slavonic.

Stoicism: A philosophy popular in Ancient Greece and Rome, which promoted self-control and fortitude to overcome destructive emotions (rather like the Vulcans in the Star Trek universe).

Suffix: An element placed at the end of a word to modify it in some way. Suffices are used a lot in nomenclature, often forming diminutive or variant forms. In some languages, some suffices are used just in names.

Susquehannock: See Iroquoian.

Swahili: Also known as Kiswahili, Swahili is a major African language belonging to the Bantu group. It is used as a common language across much of East Africa. Much of its vocabulary is actually derived from Arabic.

Tagalog: One of the main languages spoken in the Philippines, sometimes called Filipino.

Teutonic: Essentially used interchangeably with Germanic to refer to the Germanic language spoken in Antiquity from which the various Germanic languages descend.

Theban Legion: A legendary unspecified Roman legion, all of which was said to have converted to Christianity and been martyred-and canonized. Their commander was St. Maurice. Needless to say, no contemporary records exist of this remarkable event.

Theonym: The name of a God or Goddess.

Thracian: The language and people of Thrace, an ancient land covering much of what is now eastern and southern Bulgaria and eastern Greece.

Tibetan: Language of Tibet in central Asia; a member of the Sino-Tibetan language family. Buddhism is the principal religion, and Tibetan Buddhists strongly believe in giving auspicious names to their children; both first names and surnames are given inherited surnames are rarely used-and most names are unisex.

Titan: The generic term used to refer to the pre-Olympian Gods of Greece, with twelve principal deities ruled over by Cronos, Zeus's father.

Toponym: The name of a place or geographical feature such as a hill or river.

Transliterate: To render a word from one writing system to another, such as the Arabic or Chinese into the Latin alphabet, which is used by most European languages, including English. This often means that such names might be rendered in a number of different but equally valid ways.

Tupi: The language of the Tupi people of Brazil, often called Tupi-Guarani, although Tupi and Guarani are two distinct languages which together have given their name to the Tupi-Guarani language family.

Turkic: A word used to refer to the Turkic family of languages. Turkish is its principal member, but also includes Turkmen, Uzbek, Tatar, and Azerbaijani. It is generally believed that the extinct language Hunnish-the language of the Huns-was also a Turkic language.

Twi: Twi is a dialect of the Niger-Congo language Akan, and is principally spoken by members of the Ashanti and Fante tribes of Ghana in West

Africa. It is common practice in these tribes to give children names which denote the day of the week on which they were born.

Vernacular: "Informal," "everyday," and "ordinary."

Walloon: A Romance language spoken in parts of Belgium and northern France.

Welsh: The Celtic language of Wales. It is descended directly from the Brythonic languages which were spoken in Britain at the time of the Romans. Old Welsh is the oldest forms preserved from the early medieval period (8-11 CE); Middle Welsh is the Welsh of the Middle Ages (12-15 CE).

West Country: A term used to refer to the South-East peninsula of Britain encompassing the counties of Cornwall, Devon and frequently those of Somerset and Dorset also.

Yiddish: A Germanic language, spoken by the Jewish community, which incorporates Hebrew and Slavic elements. It developed in Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages.

Xhosa: A Bantu language and people of South Africa.

Zapotec: A Central American language spoken in Mexico.

Zoroastrian: Relating to the religion of Zoroastrianism, based on the teachings of Zoroaster who lived in Persia in about 1000 BCE.

Zulu: A Bantu language and people, who live mostly in South Africa.



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1. As such, Pagans and the various types of Pagans namely Wiccans, Witches, Druids, and Heathens, etc., are honored with a capital, just as followers of other religions. And in acknowledgement of the fact Pagans are generally polytheistic and/or pantheist and often regard Nature itself as

divine, most occurrences of the words "God," "Goddess," and "Nature" are shown respect by the use of a capital.

2. This doesn't necessarily mean general use, especially where a surname is concerned. Prior to the nineteenth century, few surnames had passed into general firstname use. Most were either isolated cases, or surnames which had been taken up by a particular family.
3. Since 1946, 34,869 girls have been called Adrienne in France-and at the time of writing, there were 44,065 people with the name Adrienne listed in the American White Pages.
4. This is leaving aside the fact that the surname Madison and its variants actually seem to have developed more from Matthew than Maud anyway.
5. The sobriquet actually means "ill-advised" rather than "ill-prepared."
6. It should be noted that in Ireland in the Middle Ages, names of Irish saints were considered too sacred to use for children-this included Mary, Patrick, and Bridget. They only came into use after the seventeenth century.
7. I use "rehabilitated" deliberately instead of "fashionable," though in the context the sense is essentially the same, for the simple reason that many people who now use these rehabilitated names wouldn't dream of calling them "fashionable." They are likely to consider them "traditional"-and thus "normal." "Fashionable" would be reserved for names considered "new," those which rub shoulders with all the Emilys and Isabellas on the list-the Mias and Summers, Tylers, and Jaydens.

1. "r" is also used in the guidance given for Japanese names containing an "r." However, the Japanese "r" is more of a cross between an "r" and an "l," and is notoriously difficult for non-Japanese speakers to pronounce. As with all non-English names, use with caution.



